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### Digest

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# Digest of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Winter 2006)

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

# DIGEST

2006 №1

## Will the Doctor Be In?

CONFRONTING A NATIONWIDE  
PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE





## OPENING REMARKS



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Of late, leaders in medicine have begun to acknowledge the prospect of an extended national shortage of physicians. Many PCOM alumni practicing in underserved urban and rural regions across the country confirm the outlook; they are already experiencing the personal tolls of the shortage, including longer shifts and early burnout. And we all must be concerned with the potential endangerment of patient access to health care, the affordability of care and the quality of care. The cover story of this issue of *Digest* confronts the matter and raises some viable options. Part of the solution rests in the holistic approach of osteopathic medicine.

This issue also marks PCOM's annual tradition, Founders' Day. We recognize those who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, loyalty and service to our institution. Please join us in honoring the 2006 O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal recipient, Robert W. England, DO '56. Throughout his career, Dr. England, an ordained minister, emphasized the connection between body, mind and spirit as he served his alma mater as dean, professor and member of the faculty, and chairman of osteopathic principles and practice and general family practice. Also deserving of acknowledgment is the recipient of this year's Mason W. Pressly Memorial Medal, Gregory A. Skochko (DO '06), a young man whose advocacy of health care equality is extraordinary.

Finally, this issue portrays the help and hope that so many of our PCOM alumni brought to the people of Louisiana and Mississippi in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Among them are four role models: Hal Bendit, DO '84, who worked with the Public Health Service in Baton Rouge; Vincent A. Berkley, DO '80, who led a team of public health officials charged with the responsibility of keeping hospitals open in New Orleans; Greg Christiansen, DO '92, who was deployed to New Orleans with a Georgia Disaster Medical Assistance Team; and Jim McCans, MS/FM '04, who with cadaver dog Stache aided a crew from the Mississippi State Fire Academy in recovery efforts throughout Kiln. Their experiences are gripping and illustrate ultimate commitments to community service.

I thank you for your continued interest in and support of our wonderful College and hope that 2006 brings all of us health, wisdom, joy and peace.

With warmest regards,

Matthew Schure, PhD  
President and Chief Executive Officer



# DIGEST

## FEATURES

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### WILL THE DOCTOR BE IN?

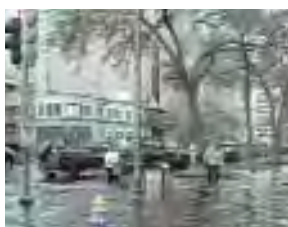
Health Policy Institute Director Richard Cooper, MD, and other leaders in medicine have begun to acknowledge the prospect of a national physician shortage. And PCOM alumni in practice in underserved urban and rural regions across the country are already experiencing some of the effects of the shortfall. What will be the future of health care? Is the osteopathic physician a part of the solution?

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### RECOGNIZING LEADERSHIP, LOYALTY, SERVICE

The College bestows its highest accolades during Founders' Day. Celebrate this year's awardees: O. J. Snyder Memorial Medal recipient Robert W. England, DO '56, and Mason W. Pressly Memorial Medal recipient Gregory A. Skochko (DO '06).

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### BRINGING HOPE & HELP AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA

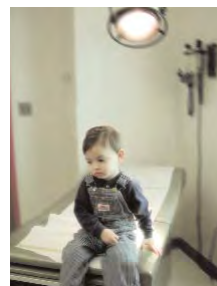
In response to the major devastation created by Hurricane Katrina, many PCOM alumni (including Hal Bendit, DO '84; Vincent A. Berkley, DO '80; Greg Christiansen, DO '92; and Jim McCans, MS/FM '04) selflessly responded to the

need for urgent health care assistance to thousands of storm refugees in Louisiana and throughout the Gulf Coast.

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### BRIDGING BENCH TO BEDSIDE

Scientists and physicians have joined forces at PCOM to create a new Center for Chronic Disorders of Aging. Their approach bridges the understanding of diseases/disorders with the implementation of corrective measures.



Cover photo: istockphoto

### ON THE COVER

*A child waits in an examination room for his physician . . . For many patients, physician shortages are already impinging on the delivery of basic health care.*

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### PCOM UPDATES & KUDOS

Updates on Georgia Campus—Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine; the merging of PCOM's Family Practice Residency Program with Mercy Suburban Hospital; the 13th annual Golf Classic; PCOM in the news; Support Our Troops outreach; Lindback Award recipient Michael McGuinness, PhD; the addition of a Substance Use Management Service to the Center for Brief Therapy; development activities; and more.

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### CLASS NOTES

Current professional endeavors and achievements of PCOM alumni; profiles of Thomas Scott, DO '54, and Ashley Kase, MS '05 (EdS '08); and special remembrances of Domenic DeBias, PhD, and Roy N. Pasker, DO '65.

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### ESSAY

GA-PCOM student Debra Bjork (DO '09) relates her atypical journey to medical school and how the assurance she discovered is rooted in the osteopathic philosophy.



# DIGEST

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Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by the College or the editors.

## A PCOM FIRST

PCOM joined the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities' (AICUP) first Independent College Day at the Capitol in Harrisburg last October. PCOM had the opportunity to highlight its faculty-student research, medical and health professions programs, graduate programs and community

service activities to state legislators. Robert Jubelirer, president pro tempore of the Pennsylvania Senate, and John Perzel, speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, spoke at AICUP's press conference in the Capitol Building.



Deborah Benvenger, director, admissions (left), and Carol Fox, associate vice president for enrollment management, represented PCOM at AICUP's Independent College Day.

## COLLEGE MERGES FAMILY PRACTICE RESIDENCY PROGRAM WITH MERCY SUBURBAN HOSPITAL

The merger of PCOM's Family Practice Residency Program with Mercy Suburban Hospital combines the strengths of two superb medical institutions to benefit patients, family practice residents, interns and students.



Michael Becker, DO '87 (center), at Mercy Suburban Hospital.

David Kuo, DO '96, assistant residency director of the PCOM-Mercy Suburban Hospital Family Practice Residency, reports, "This new partnership is a wonderful opportunity that makes an already successful residency program even better. The Mercy Suburban Family Practice Residency has flourished under the leadership of Michael Becker, DO '87, over the past few years. Now, with the addition of PCOM's multitude of educational resources and faculty, the program has become even stronger."

Harry Morris, DO '78, chairman, PCOM Family Practice Department agrees: "This is a great fit for us. Mercy Suburban has all the rotations we need including medicine, surgery, pediatrics and OB-GYN. Their family medicine continuity of care Family Practice Center and dedication to the residents of Norristown offer our students an ideal learning environment for family medicine."



## PCOMUPDATES

### GEORGIA CAMPUS CELEBRATES

Georgia Campus—PCOM celebrated its official opening with a White Coat Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting. On November 6, the 84 members of the inaugural class were cloaked during the traditional White Coat Ceremony celebrated by first-year students. Richard Loyd, DO, president of the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association, along with members of the College's medical faculty, participated in the ceremony. The White



*Presiding over the ribbon cutting are, from left, Class President Robert Hales (DO '09); U.S. Congressman John Linder; Vice Dean Paul Evans, DO '79; Board of Trustees Chair Paul McGloin; and PCOM President and CEO Matthew Schure, PhD.*

Coat Ceremony was initiated by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, a public, not-for-profit charity dedicated to fostering humanism in medicine. "To a physician, understanding the emotional needs of a patient should be as important as knowledge of physical anatomy," says Gold. The ceremony is designed to establish a psychological contract for beginning medical students that stresses the importance of caring for patients.

On November 7, GA-PCOM and PCOM administration participated in the official ribbon cutting for GA-PCOM. U.S. Congressman John Linder delivered the keynote address. "Congressman Linder has been a friend of our Georgia Campus from the beginning," says PCOM President and Chief Executive Officer Matthew Schure, PhD. "It was through the Congressman's efforts that the

College received a \$692,000 grant to help establish its electronic library, which is now on-line and available to our students 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from anywhere in the world. Our future plans include making it available to the local medical community as well," says Dr. Schure.

More than 1,750 applications were received for the first GA-PCOM DO class. Of those applicants, 235 were interviewed. The

student body is 51 percent female. Georgia residents comprise 36 percent of the student body, and 88 percent of the class is from Georgia and the surrounding states. Plans are currently under way for phase two of the campus construction, which will include research labs, additional faculty offices and facilities for the biomedical program, which will accept its first class of students next fall.

### 2005 PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AWARD



With a reception held on the beautiful terrace of the Levin Administration Building on September 22, Harry Ginsburg, DO '42, DPH, MD, received the second President's Leadership Award. Dr. Ginsburg

has been an extremely generous supporter of the College and was recognized as one of the College's most significant contributors.

The President's Recognition Reception is held each year to thank and recognize donors who contribute \$1,000 or more to PCOM during the fiscal year.

### GOLF CLASSIC

The 13th annual PCOM Golf Classic was held at the ACE Center in Lafayette Hill on September 13, 2005, and raised \$133,225 for PCOM's Healthcare Centers. In addition to the charitable aspect of the event, the 125 golfers enjoyed a day of camaraderie and fresh air.

Mark your calendar for the 14th annual Golf Classic, which is scheduled for September 11, 2006, at the Whitemarsh Valley Country Club in Lafayette Hill.



*ATX Communications, Inc. was a proud \$10,000 platinum sponsor for the Classic. Pictured above are Joe Conwell; Thomas Gravina, PCOM trustee and ATX board chairman; Gerry Gallagher; and Jim Halpern.*





## Kudos

**Marie Bensulock, MS, PA-C**, assistant professor, physician assistant studies, presented a lecture on clinical aromatherapy to first-year medical students and physician assistant students at the University of Medicine and Dentistry – New Jersey as part of their complementary/alternative therapy lecture series.

**John Cavenagh, PhD, PA-C**, associate professor and chair, physician assistant studies, was a presenting panelist at the Symposium on Leadership and Networking at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. Dr. Cavenagh discussed ethics and moral leadership dilemmas he encountered while heading the emergency medical service of Washington, DC.

**Bill Clinton, MA**, professor, psychology, won a seat on the Upper Providence Township Council in the November election. He is the first Democrat elected to the council in over 50 years.

**Stephanie Felgoise, PhD**, associate professor, vice-chair, director of clinical PsyD, is the senior editor of *The Encyclopedia of Cognitive Behavior Therapy*, recently published by Springer Publishing Company.

**Katherine E. Galluzzi, DO**, professor and chair, geriatrics, presented the 2005 fall continuing medical education program, "Pain Management at the End of Life," for the American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine. She also lectured at the AOA/ACOFP Unified Osteopathic Convention on "Communicating Bad News: How to Assess When the End Is Near" at the End-of-Life Care program, and she was the moderator for "Faces of Pain: Clinical Considerations and Caveats." Dr. Galluzzi also lectured on "OMM in the Elderly" at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Northeast Region Meeting in Hershey, PA. Dr. Galluzzi was the editor of the *JAOA's* supplement, *Pain Management: Part III, Patient-Centered Care for Chronic Nonmalignant Pain*. In addition, Dr. Galluzzi's article "Management of Neuropathic Pain" appeared in the supplement.

## PCOM IN THE NEWS

PCOM programs, faculty and staff have once again made news. The College's standardized patient program was the source of an investigative article, with *The Philadelphia Inquirer* staff writer Dawn Fallik posing as a standardized patient to get the inside story. Also in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, PCOM was highlighted in an article that looked at the use of personal digital assistants (PDAs) in the practice of medicine. The Center for Chronic Disorders of Aging and the College's Substance Use Management Service (SUMS) were profiled in *City Suburban News*, and several PCOM physicians (Oliver Bullock, DO '78; Izola David, DO '85; Larry Finkelstein, DO '87; Pat Anthony Lanutti, DO '71; Eugene Mochan, PhD, DO '77; and John Simelaro, DO '71) authored articles in *The Philadelphia Tribune's* eight-week supplement series that focused on black health care. Ira Sachs, DO, '80, associate professor, surgery, was interviewed twice by local ABC affiliate Channel Six News about Philadelphia Eagles' quarterback Donovan McNabb's sports hernia, and Tage Kvist, PhD, professor and chair, anatomy, was pictured and quoted in an article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* about the exhibit "Body Worlds." News of Georgia Campus – PCOM has spread far and wide with articles in *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, *The Gwinnett Post* and *The Atlanta Business Chronicle*, to name just a few.



Ira Sachs, DO '80, on ABC affiliate Channel Six News.

## FOCUSING ON PSYCHOLOGY

The psychology department, in conjunction with the Association for Behavioral & Cognitive Therapies, hosted a half-day session at PCOM for individuals considering furthering their education in psychology.

Geared to both professional psychologists and those considering a career in the field, Focus on Psychology offered seminars ranging from how to get into graduate school and what to expect once enrolled to career options and how to develop professional networks.

Doctoral students presented their research at a poster session; faculty, graduates and current students from all programs and years met with participants; and renowned cognitive behavior therapists Arthur M. Nezu, PhD, and Christine Maguth Nezu, PhD, spoke on cognitive behavior therapy for patients with cardiovascular disease. The event was a resounding success, drawing over 100 participants.

## PCOM SUPPORTS OUR TROOPS

PCOM pulled out all the stops to support our troops this holiday season. Students, faculty and staff donated food, toiletries, books, DVDs, CDs, games and holiday supplies, and the student affiliates of AMOPS, UAAO, Sigma Sigma Phi, and the Biomed club held bake sales that raised over \$400 to ship the huge array of gifts.

The student groups collected the names and addresses of 25 friends and family members of the PCOM community who are currently serving overseas. Each person was sent two boxes of toiletries and food items, a DVD and a handmade holiday stocking. The groups also sent eight large boxes to units in the Army, Navy and Air Force, providing gifts for approximately 150 soldiers, sailors and airmen.

"This was an incredible community effort," says AMOPS President Dean Brewer (DO '08). "Everyone chipped in to raise money, collect gifts and pack everything. But I'd especially like to thank Ruth Wian and Tiffany Taylor from the Dean's office and Carol Fox in admissions. Ruth made 50 holiday stockings by hand and filled each one with treats. She also obtained donations of toiletries from the Hilton Hotel and from several PCOM departments. All in all, the Support the Troops Holiday Drive was a great success."



## STUDENT AWARDS AND GRANTS

**Lisa Ashe (DO '08)** was awarded a student summer research fellowship for 2005 from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. She worked with Drs. Galluzzi, Busch and Goldstein to develop a future clinical study designed to advance the management of pain in geriatric patients.

**Jarrett Bender (DO '08), Peter Bidey (DO '08), Jennifer Dwyer (DO '08)** and **Demetri Economedes (DO '07)** each received a scholarship award from the Advocates for the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (APOMA).



*APOMA scholarship recipients (from left) Demetri Economedes (DO '07), Peter Bidey (DO '08), Jarrett Bender (DO '08) and Jennifer Dwyer (DO '08) are joined by Tina Fedec, APOMA SAA advisor, and Carol Fox, associate vice president for enrollment management.*

**Michael Braun (DO '07)** received a research fellowship from the AOA for his study "Six etiologies of low back pain found in the U.S. Army." Assisting Dr. Braun in his study were **Timothy Borden (DO '07)** and **Nicholas Ondrasik (DO '07)**.

**Leonardo Geraci (DO '09)** and **Scott Peerenboom (DO '06)** received honorable mention in the Annenberg Anatomy Competition sponsored by the Walter & Leonore Annenberg Center for Medical Education at Lankenau Hospital.

**Scott Goodroad (DO '06)** received the Burnett Osteopathic Student Research Award from the AOA for his work diagnosing and treating biomechanical risk factors for shin splints.

**Glenn Miller (DO '07)** received the APOMA Kin scholarship, awarded to the child or grandchild of an active POMA physician.

**Lauren Muchorski (DO '09)** received the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Student Summer Research Fellowship for her project, "Utilizing Community Lay Health Advisors for Developing and Implementing a Healthy Lifestyle Program for Uninsured/Underinsured Obese African-American Women." She also presented the poster, "A Comparison of the Effectiveness of an Obesity Program on an African-American Church Group Versus a Non-Church Group" at the AOA Annual Conference in October.

**Jessica Yahnert (DO '06)** received a research fellowship from the AOA for her study "The role of OMM in the treatment of fibromyalgia syndrome." She was assisted by OMM fellow **Jason Hartman (DO '06)**.

## Kudos

**David Gantt, PhD**, director, gross and developmental anatomy, GA-PCOM, presented a poster, "HRXCT and 3D Reconstruction of Enamel Thickness and Volume," and presented "3D Reconstruction of Enamel Thickness and Volume in Humans and Hominoids" at the Seventh International Symposium on the Composition, Properties and Fundamental Structure of Tooth Enamel, sponsored by the NIDCR and the Forsyth Institute. Dr. Gantt also participated in an international conference, Dental Perspectives on Human Evolution: State of the Art Research in Dental Anthropology, hosted by the Max Planck Institute Department of Human Evolution, Leipzig, Germany. In addition, he presented "HRXCT analysis of hominoid molars" as an invited participant at the 13th International Symposium on Dental Morphology, Lodz, Poland.

**Frederick J. Goldstein, PhD**, professor, clinical pharmacology, is the coordinating editor of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association's* pain management supplement series. In addition, he, along with **Saul Jeck, DO**, professor and chair, OB/GYN, **Alexander Nicholas, DO '75**, professor and chair, OMM, **Marvin Berman, DO**, and **Marilyn Lerario, BSc**, authored the paper, "Preoperative Intravenous Morphine Sulfate with Postoperative Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment Reduces Patient Analgesic Use After Total Abdominal Hysterectomy," published in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* (June 2005).

**Michael L. Kuchera, DO**, director, OMM research, authored the article "Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Considerations in Patients with Chronic Pain," which was published in the *JAOA* supplement, *Pain Management: Part III, Patient-Centered Care for Chronic Nonmalignant Pain*.

**David L. McWhorter, PhD**, associate professor, anatomy, GA-PCOM, received the Advocate for Academic Excellence Award from the Psi Sigma Alpha fraternity. In addition, Dr. McWhorter published, "Medical Students' Perceptions of Medical Education Research and Their Roles as Participants" in the journal *Academic Medicine*, Vol. 80, No. 8.





## Kudos

**Fred Rotgers, PsyD**, associate professor, psychology, chaired a symposium at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies convention on "Moderation Approaches for Substance Users: Bringing Cognitive-Behavioral Approaches and Harm Reduction to the Public." He also co-edited the book *Antisocial Personality Disorder: A Practitioner's Guide to Comparative Treatments* published by Springer Publishing Company.

**Kenneth J. Veit, DO '76, MBA**, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean, presented "COCA's Efforts Related to Physician Shortage and Future of OGME" at the Osteopathic Medical Education Leadership Conference XVI, "The Future of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education in Changing Times."

**Lindon Young, PhD**, associate professor, pathology, microbiology & immunology, coauthored the article, "Protein Kinase C  $\beta$ II Peptide Inhibitor Exerts Cardioprotective Effects in Rat Cardiac Ischemia/Reperfusion Injury," published in *The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, Vol. 314, No. 2. He also coauthored the article, "Protein Kinase C- $\zeta$  Inhibition Exerts Cardioprotective Effects in Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury," published in *The American Journal of Physiology - Heart and Circulatory Physiology*. He and **Brian Balin, PhD**, professor, pathology, microbiology & immunology, coauthored the paper, "GÖ 6983: A Fast Acting Protein Kinase C Inhibitor that Attenuates Myocardial Ischemia/Reperfusion Injury," published in *Cardiovascular Drug Reviews*, Vol. 23, No. 3.

**Bruce Zahn, EdD**, associate professor, clinical psychology, presented a workshop, Basics of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Older Adults, at the Pennsylvania Psychological Association.

## ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY RECEIVES LINDBACK AWARD

Michael McGuinness, PhD, assistant professor of anatomy, received the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. The Lindback Award recognizes academic excellence and outstanding teaching and is one of the most prestigious awards conferred on an instructor in higher education. Dr. McGuinness joined the faculty of PCOM in 1999, teaching gross anatomy and histology. As a supervisor of graduate and undergraduate research, he has trained students in microscopy, cell culture and molecular biology techniques. Dr. McGuinness served as a postdoctoral research associate at the R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute, where he began the first detailed

study of estrogen response in Sertoli and Leydig cells. This research generated valuable information on the use of estrogenic compounds to treat osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, cancer and infertility.



Michael McGuinness, PhD, receives the Lindback Award from Dr. Schure.

## NEW APPROACH TO TREATING SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Center for Brief Therapy has added a Substance Use Management Service (SUMS) to its therapeutic offerings. Based on harm reduction psychotherapy, the program provides assistance for people who are concerned about their use of alcohol or drugs but are uncertain what their next step should be. Unlike traditional substance abuse treatment, which requires total abstinence, SUMS works with individuals who are at various points in the continuum of change. "We let the client make the decision concerning their treatment goals," explains Fred Rotgers, PsyD, associate professor, psychology. "This concept is unusual in treating substance abuse in the United States, but it is strongly supported by research about how people change their behavior. The patient is very often ambivalent about treatment, and our clinicians help them to resolve their ambivalence and move toward healthy decisions."

Clients are helped to decide on goals through a therapeutic technique known as motivational interviewing. "Motivational interviewing is client-centered, non-confrontational and supports the client's autonomy, which helps people get ready to change and make a commitment to their goals," explains Dr. Rotgers. This modality helps build a strong working relationship between clients and therapists. It's client-focused rather than treatment focused. "The result," says Dr. Rotgers, "is an osteopathic approach that looks at the whole person. It doesn't bifurcate the drug treatment and the mental health issues."



# DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## NEW TRUSTEE SCHOLARSHIP RAISES \$370,000

Last August, PCOM's Board of Trustees approved a new incentive program for scholarship support. New commitments to scholarships of a minimum of \$50,000 will be matched by endowment funds at 5 percent. The 5 percent match is given to the scholarship recipient as a supplemental grant, in addition to the usual scholarship provided. Trustee Eugene Chaiken, who originated the idea following a similar program at Penn State, kicked off the program with a \$50,000 commitment to the Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO Scholarship. Trustee John Kearney pledged an additional \$250,000 to the John D. Kearney Scholarship, which was established in honor of his late son.

The late Florence Gertrude Baker, a childhood friend of the late William Daiber, DO '28, gave \$70,000 to establish a new scholarship in his memory. Dr. Daiber was on the faculty of the College and was the 1973 O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal recipient. Ms. Baker fulfilled a childhood promise that she would make a gift to Dr. Daiber's medical school if he accomplished his dream of becoming a physician. Ms. Baker turned 100 in December 2005; she passed away in January.



(circa 1973) William F. Daiber, DO '28, with his wife and sons, William K. Daiber, DO '74, and Robin.

Contact the alumni office if you are interested in the new Trustee Scholarship program (1-800-739-3939 or email [alumni@pcom.edu](mailto:alumni@pcom.edu)).

## CLASS AGENTS FOR '81 AND '96 STEP UP TO \$10,000 PRESIDENT'S FELLOWS



Dr. Dworkin



Dr. Hullings

Gerald Dworkin, DO '81, 1981 class agent, gave \$10,000 to PCOM in honor of his upcoming 25-year reunion. Dr. Dworkin made his leadership gift to the annual fund. He hopes many of his classmates will join him at the class's reunion in June and that they will also consider marking the occasion with a significant gift.

To celebrate her 10-year reunion, Joanne Hullings, DO '96, also gave

\$10,000 to the unrestricted annual fund in memory of the three members of the Class of 1996 who passed away before graduating: Michelle Andrews, David Atlas and Joseph Krobert. In honor of her gift, the College is erecting a tree plaque in their memory. Dr. Hullings, class agent for 1996, is hoping for a superb turnout at the June 2-4 Alumni Weekend, as well as a significant class gift.

## FACULTY/STAFF CAMPAIGN NETS \$64,000; TRUSTEES PLEDGE \$73,000 FOR MILLION DOLLAR CAMPAIGN; CAMPAIGN AT \$378,046

Even after emptying its pockets for tsunami and Katrina victims, the PCOM community continued its loyal support of the College's unrestricted annual fund. Faculty and staff exceeded their campaign goal by pledging \$64,306. Members of the Board of Trustees pledged \$73,000 to the campaign. The goal of the campaign is to build the annual fund to \$1 million per year by 2007. As of

December 31, 2005, a total of \$378,046 had been raised. This year's goal is to reach \$850,000 by June 30, 2006.

There's still time to support PCOM if you haven't made a gift. Online giving is particularly easy ([www.pcom.edu](http://www.pcom.edu)) or call the alumni office (1-800-739-3939) and make a credit card gift.



2005-2006 campaign chairs: Izola David, DO '85; Joanne Jones, MBA; and Mindy George-Weinstein, PhD.





# Will the doctor be in?

## CONFRONTING A NATIONWIDE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE



In rural Frankfort, Indiana, a patient in need of surgery must be airlifted or transported by ambulance to a hospital more than 30 miles away because the local hospital has no general surgery coverage.

In Scottsdale, Arizona, some patients find themselves without primary care when their physicians stop accepting certain health insurance plans because physicians have too many patients. To see some specialists, patients may wait as long as two months for an appointment.

In New York City, emergency medicine physicians work longer shifts and fight burnout because ER physicians are in such short supply.

These real-life situations are common in many underserved urban and rural areas across the United States where physician shortages are affecting the delivery of health care, and the situation is predicted to worsen nationwide over the next 15 years.

By the year 2020, this growing shortage could exceed 200,000 physicians, according to a 2002 study conducted by the Health Policy Institute at the Medical College of Wisconsin. The Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME), the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) now concur that the nation is facing a serious physician shortage unless steps are taken to alleviate it.

To make up for the projected shortfall, the AMA has committed to “work to develop

mechanisms, including identification of funding sources, to create medical school and residency positions in or adjacent to physician shortage/underserved areas and in undersupplied specialties.” COGME has recommended that U.S. medical schools train 3,000 more doctors a year, which is the equivalent of about 20 new medical schools.

PCOM has been on the leading edge of addressing this need with the opening of its new Georgia campus last fall. “GA-PCOM opened with full enrollment,” reports Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean. “However, opening new medical schools is only part of the solution to the problem of physician shortages. The number of physicians who practice in this country is much more determined by the number of internship and residency positions we have than by the number of medical students. So the biggest challenge is increasing the number of these positions.

“Right now, Medicare is the major party that pays for graduate medical education, and since 1997, Medicare has been very reluctant to increase the supply of internship and residency positions,” Dr. Veit continues. “The big question is who is going to pay to increase the supply. I’m a firm believer that everyone who is in the health insurance business should share in the responsibility of training future physicians at the graduate medical education level through assessments for that specific purpose. This is going to become the crux of increasing our physician workforce, and it will require an enormous amount of society initiative as well as government and political policy decisions .

### Why a Shortage?

The physician shortage will be fueled, in part, by 79 million baby boomers who will reach retirement age and demand more medical care. Among those retiring will be physicians in much larger number than the 25,000 new doctors who graduate from medical school each year. Changes in the demographics and lifestyles among those in the medical profession are also contributing to the shortage. In a recent article in *USA Today*, Health Policy Institute Director Richard (Buz) Cooper, MD, noted that women make up nearly half of new physicians being trained, and studies show that they work an average of 25 percent fewer hours than male physicians. In addition, Dr. Cooper said that physicians over age 55 work 15 percent less.

### Rural Challenges

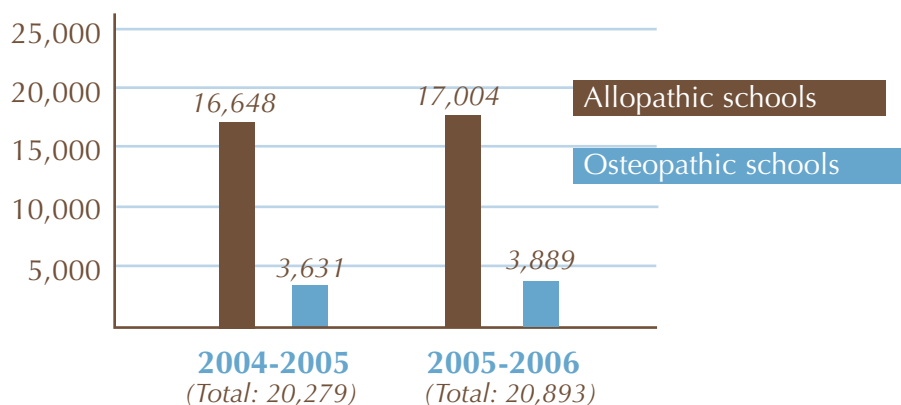
Other lifestyle choices are contributing to a shortage of doctors in rural areas,



Luke G. Nelligan, DO '91

according to Luke G. Nelligan, DO '91, who practices in a rural Indiana town of 3,000 where many of his patients are farmers and factory workers. "Many physicians prefer to practice in a metro or suburban area where their families have access to better schools, cultural and social activities and employment opportunities," says Dr. Nelligan, who lives 18

### Number of First-Year Students in U.S. Medical Schools



Sources: Association of American Medical Colleges, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

miles away from his practice in the metropolitan area near Indianapolis. "I'm committed to practicing in a rural underserved community, but I'm equally committed to ensuring that my kids go to the best schools. That's why I'm willing to commute 30 minutes to my office and 25 minutes to the hospital where I have privileges when most doctors would prefer the ease of living right down the road."

Dr. Nelligan also notes that primary care physicians and some specialists are in short supply because doctors often make financially based decisions about the specialty they will pursue. "We have five orthopedic surgeons in the rural area where I refer patients," he relates. "But we've had a shortage of rheumatologists and endocrinologists for a long time because those specialties aren't as lucrative."

Dr. Nelligan says that finances also discourage some physicians from choosing primary care. "Even though Medicare reimburses physicians

who serve in rural areas at a higher rate, the volume of patients is lower, and Medicare is still cutting reimbursement rates overall. We must make it worthwhile for physicians to go into primary care in underserved areas. As physicians, we go into health care to help people and improve society, but in the end, you still have to provide for your family and run a business. Doctors need more options and incentives to make the business aspect of the practice viable so they can focus on why they decided to practice medicine in the first place—to care for people."

Dr. Nelligan and his partners found such an option to be part of a physician-owned health network that reimburses them by the number of patients they see and pays them a percentage of the fees for CT scans, MRIs, lab work and other ancillary services that their patients need.

Dr. Nelligan says that hospitals in underserved areas could help alleviate

the physician shortage by enabling the doctors they hire to be entrepreneurial rather than just salaried employees. "Hospitals have the ability to set up joint ventures with physicians in the form of surgical centers, MRI centers or other ancillary services that would provide the physicians with a fiscal incentive to continue practicing there," he relates.

### Urban Issues

Some hospitals in New York City are feeling the physician pinch in the ER, according to Anita W. Eisenhart, DO '94, who practiced emergency medicine at St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx for 10 years. "Reimbursement for emer-

gency services has been markedly reduced, resulting in reduced physician salaries," notes Dr. Eisenhart, who now practices at two community hospitals in Orange County, New York. "At the same time, we are the fishnet for all humanity. By federal law, we cannot turn anyone away. As a result, we have a very busy 24/7 practice and yet, despite the high volume of patients we see, we must keep the customers satisfied. Our contracts depend upon high scores on satisfaction surveys. This combination of reduced salaries and increased demands discourages many people who might otherwise consider emergency medicine."

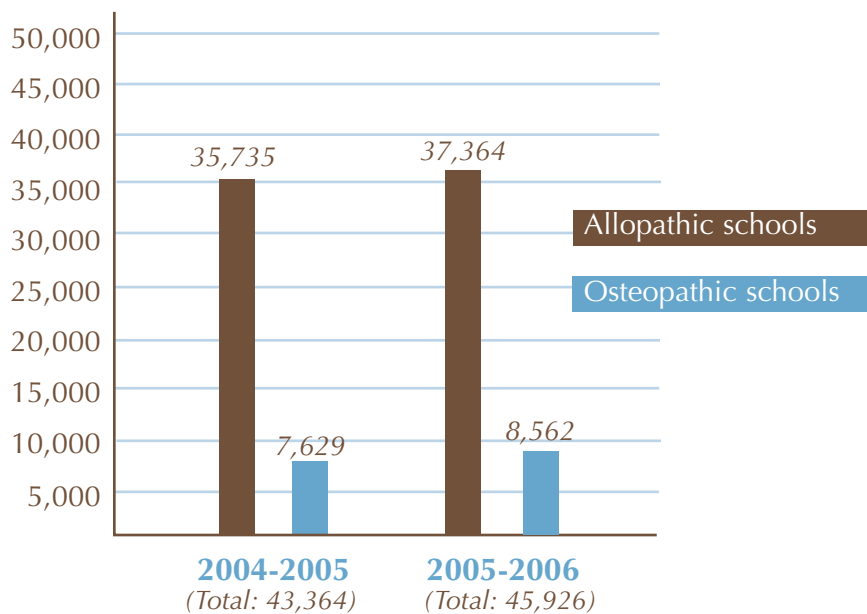
Physicians in academic medicine are also in short supply, according to Mary



Anita W. Eisenhart, DO '94

*"We can reduce the needs and drains on the health care profession if we give the community the tools they need to prevent disease and injury in the first place."*

### Number of Applicants to U.S. Medical Schools



Sources: Association of American Medical Colleges, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine



Beth Bollinger, DO '89, associate professor of pediatrics and director of allergy at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore. "I have been trying to hire another allergist to join me in practice for several years," she says.



Mary Beth Bollinger, DO '89

"In a specialty like allergy, most physicians choose to go into private practice where they can earn more money. As a result, I have a six-month waiting list for new appointments. I currently work with referring

physicians to triage patients so that those with the greatest need are seen more urgently.

I also have to lengthen the time between follow-up visits due to limited appointment slots, which is not ideal for continuity of care."

In addition to being concerned for her patients, Dr. Bollinger wonders who will teach future physicians, since fewer physicians choose careers in academic medicine because of lower salaries and the demands of juggling time for patient care, research, grant and manuscript writing and teaching. "Academic institutions need to address issues related to faculty retention and job satisfaction to ensure that we have an adequate number of quality physicians in academic medicine to teach future physicians," she emphasizes.

Across the country in Scottsdale, Arizona, Martin Blume, DO '78, MBA, observes that specialists and primary care physicians are becoming

scarce because the population is exploding but the physician population isn't keeping up. "We have only two medical schools in the state and relatively few residency slots," he explains. "We need more of both, especially residency programs because those who leave the state for residency training tend not to come back to practice here."

Dr. Blume notes that Arizona falls well below the national average of 283 physicians per 100,000 patients. "Currently, we're at 207 physicians per 100,000 patients, and that ratio will probably become even more unfavorable as the population continues to grow dramatically," he says.

The problem is exacerbated by the fact that many primary care practices in the Scottsdale area are accepting fewer health insurance plans because they have more than enough patients. As a result, many people are left without access to medical care. The baby boomer phenomenon is also a factor. Dr. Blume notes that many boomer physicians in private practice are retiring early just as the boomer population is requiring more care. He also notes that managed care has increased the demand for services. "If people have access to health care through managed care, they use more services," he says.

In Scottsdale, Dr. Blume's family and urgent care practice is part of the solution to the physician shortage. "We don't turn any patients away," he states. "We accept all insurance carriers. Many of the patients who have been turned away from other practices come to us. As demand increases, we add providers. So far, we've grown from seven to 12 providers, and we expect to add two new office locations in the near future. We never have a

problem finding quality physicians to join our staff because we offer great benefits and flexible work schedules that suit their lifestyle needs."

Dr. Blume's practice is based largely on same day care, which comprises 40 percent of the patients seen each day, as well as ancillary services such as cosmetic surgery, acupuncture, DEXA scans and others that help keep the practice profitable. "More physicians need to approach their practice as a business," says Dr. Blume, who has an MBA and is the managing partner in his practice. "Profitable practices attract providers, who, in turn, alleviate physician shortages."

*"The majority of osteopathic physicians go into primary care so, as a group, we continue to be a great resource to fill this need."*



Martin Blume, DO '78, MBA

## Physician Supply & Demand

	Projected Change in Doctor Supply	Increase Needed to Meet Demand
Cardiology	1,700	6,700-11,700
Family Medicine	16,300	20,200-31,700
General Internal Medicine	21,500	25,700-37,800
Other Internal Medicine	8,100	16,900-31,600
Obstetrics-Gynecology	5,500	4,100-8,100
Pediatrics	8,600	3,900-8,800
General Surgery	-600	9,500-18,300
Orthopedic Surgery	1,000	5,300-13,300

Source: ACOInformation (July 2005)

### Government Action Needed

To ensure that the United States has enough physicians for the future, all the interviewed PCOM alumni agree that the federal government must revisit reimbursement policies for Medicaid and Medicare and address the problem of uninsured and underinsured Americans.

"If primary care was more available to people in need, they wouldn't be in my emergency department at all hours for chronic or sub-acute complaints, and that would alleviate physician shortages in the ER," observes Dr. Eisenhart.

"The federal government needs to expand programs that encourage physicians to choose careers in academic medicine to assure the future of quality medical education," says Dr. Bollinger. "It also needs to encourage physicians to work with underserved populations and communities by assisting with loan

repayment for physicians who select to work in these areas."

### Osteopathic Physicians: Part of the Solution

Osteopathic physicians can play an important role in stemming the tide of physician shortages, says Dr. Blume. "The majority of osteopathic physicians go into primary care so, as a group, we continue to be a great resource to fill this need," he observes. "For that reason, I believe that we need more osteopathic medical schools and/or medical school branch campuses. This would enable us to better provide the supply of primary care physicians that is lacking."

Dr. Blume also believes the holistic approach of osteopathic medicine can reduce the demand on specialties that are also experiencing shortages. "An osteopathic physician is trained to look at the whole person and sort out problems," he says. "This can help to

decrease the utilization of unneeded visits to specialists and other services."

According to Dr. Veit, "Osteopathic medicine is ready made to meet the challenge of physician shortages by virtue of our commitment to community medicine. We have the history and tradition of training clinicians who are responsive to the health care needs of the community."

"We must teach the community the osteopathic approach to health care—the body has its own ability to heal itself with proper care," says Dr. Eisenhart. "We can reduce the needs and drains on the health care profession if we give the community the tools they need to prevent disease and injury in the first place."

"We can be leaders in serving the underserved as we confront this shortage of doctors," says Dr. Nelligan. "As osteopathic physicians, that has always been—and should continue to be—one of our primary missions."





# ROBERT W. ENGLAND, DO '56

## 2006 RECIPIENT OF THE O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal

### Healing Body, Mind and Spirit

In his high school yearbook, Robert W. England, DO '56, wrote that he planned to study medicine and the Bible. Either goal by itself would be challenging, but Dr. England successfully achieved both, then integrated what he learned in a remarkable career as an osteopathic physician, educator and church pastor.

"It was my hope that studying medicine and the Bible would enable me to help mankind in the best way possible," says Dr. England, the 2006 O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal recipient. "Osteopathic medicine with its emphasis on the connection between body, mind and spirit has been the perfect complement to my work as a pastor. And my training as a pastor added another dimension to my ability to help patients and students over the years," he says, noting that the father of Andrew Taylor Still, founder of

osteopathic medicine, was both a physician and minister.

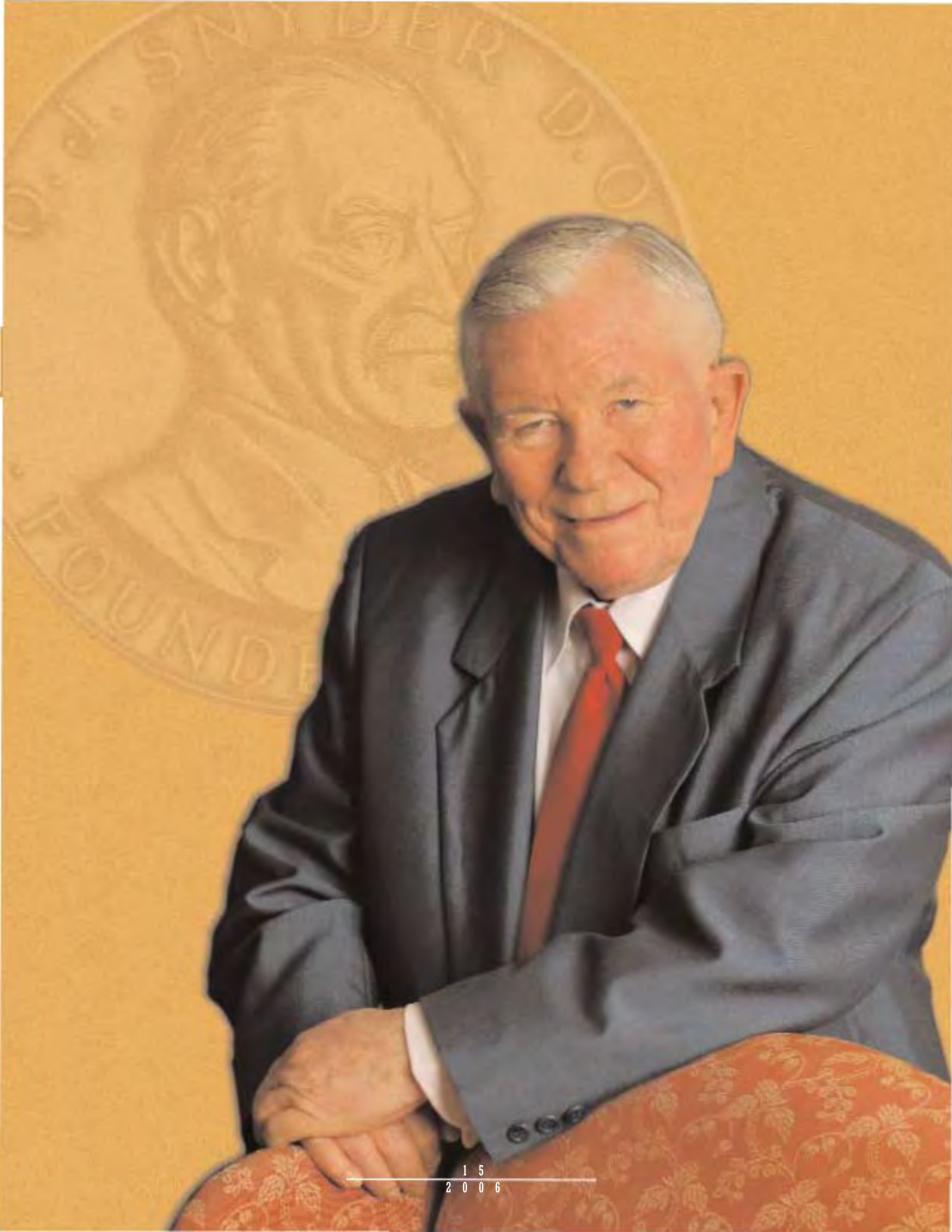
Dr. England was introduced to osteopathic medicine and PCOM by his family physician, Theodore Cohen, DO '33, who also influenced Dr. England's sister, Katherine M. England, DO '54. When he read about the osteopathic philosophy, Dr. England found that its holistic principles meshed perfectly with his own personal beliefs.

In 1952, after his graduation from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and ordination as a minister, Dr. England began his studies at PCOM. At the same time, he began serving as the pastor of a small Baptist church in West Collingswood Heights, New Jersey. In addition to his pastoral duties, he oversaw the construction of a new church and Sunday school building. Later, he moved to a church

in Warminster, Pennsylvania, where he served as pastor for 35 years while practicing medicine and serving at PCOM.

While Dr. England admits that being a pastor and a medical student simultaneously was a challenge, he excelled at both. At PCOM, his mentor, Angus Cathie, DO '31, was so impressed with Dr. England's skills in osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) and teaching that he invited him to become a student teacher. "In those days, second- and third-year students helped teach the first- and second-year students," explains Dr. England. Later, Dr. Cathie asked him to join the faculty in the departments he chaired, anatomy and osteopathic principles and practice (OPP—the predecessor to OMM). Thus began a teaching career at PCOM that spanned 27 years.





Dr. England served as chairman and professor of the departments of OPP and general family practice as well as professor of anatomy. He also served as program director of the College's first general family practice residency program. In 1972, he was appointed dean of the College, a post he held for 11 years.

As dean, he worked tirelessly to build the College's continuing medical education (CME) program and to increase the size and strength of the PCOM faculty. During his tenure, he oversaw the opening of the PCOM Sullivan County Healthcare Center in LaPorte, Pennsylvania, and brought PCOM into the computer age by purchasing the College's very first computer.

"Students used to come to my office and use my computer to run medical study programs because I had the only computer on campus at the time," he recalls. As a result of his pioneering efforts, the College's administration acknowledged the increasing value of information technology in medical education, and the number of computers on campus began to grow.

Dr. England was well respected for his contributions to medical education both within and outside PCOM. In 1975, he became the first osteopathic physician to be elected to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and served on its membership and CME committees. He also served as chairman of the Council of Deans for the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

He takes pride in the professional achievements of many former students, including John Ferretti, DO '73, and Silvia Ferretti, DO '77, who now serve as president and provost, respectively, of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. "I had the pleasure of teaching many students who became leaders in the osteopathic profession," he relates.

While teaching students the skills they would need as physicians, he was sometimes called upon to address their spiritual needs. "I had a few students



whose marriages almost collapsed and I was able to help keep them together through counseling," he recalls. "Others came to me for emotional support when they were having academic problems."

Dr. England offered to pray with patients and students alike. "Sometimes when a patient and his or her family were really upset, we would pray together and that would help everyone to calm down," he remembers. "I still have former students who call me for spiritual support as well as advice in the practice of medicine."

Throughout his career, Dr. England emphasized the human side of medicine, teaching his students to heed the body-mind-spirit connection and to treat their patients with respect and compassion.

"You must love medicine because you love people, especially in today's health care environment," he says. "It's also important to remember that patients are more sophisticated today. They search the Internet for information and they're very knowledgeable. As physicians, we must respect that knowledge."

Always a staunch osteopathic practitioner, Dr. England treated more than 95 percent of his patients with OMM and participated in numerous studies that demonstrated its value.

His treatment of cardiac patients led to published research in somatic dysfunction related to myocardial infarction (MI). "When I treated patients recovering from an MI with OMM, I could tell which ones were going to survive by their tissue response to the treatment," he notes. "Most responded very nicely."

Dr. England also participated in studies about the relationship between immunology and the use of the lymphatic pump as well as OMM and the autonomic nervous system. He is excited about current research being conducted to demonstrate how OMM supports the immune system.

"It is essential for osteopathic physicians to retain their distinction by continuing to learn and practice OMM," he emphasizes. "It can be difficult in today's managed care environment where limited time is an obstacle, but DOs must find a way to include it in the treatment they provide, even if they do it out of the goodness of their hearts and don't bill for it. It's that important. It goes back to loving medicine because you love people. If you love people, you want to give them the best possible care, and that almost always includes some form of OMM."

Moving forward, Dr. England believes that two of PCOM's key priorities are to keep the teaching focus on the basic tenets of osteopathic medicine and to provide financial support to students. "PCOM students are well respected in the hospitals where they train and that is because of their osteopathic education," he notes. "Yet, the debt burden of their education is high and we must encourage them by finding ways to offer more financial support."

Dr. England expresses gratitude for all the opportunities he's had to help people through the years. "The Lord has been good to me," he emphasizes. "He put me in the right place at the right time so that I could serve in a meaningful way. I hope that my life and my work have reflected my love for Him."



## 2006 MASON W. PRESSLY MEMORIAL MEDAL RECIPIENT



### Gregory A. Skochko (DO '06) HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE

**G**reg Skochko (DO '06) describes himself as an ordinary guy with an extraordinary commitment to his ideals—health care equality and access to care for all patients. Throughout his four years at PCOM, he has worked diligently to keep those ideals alive within himself and fellow medical students.

“I consider physician advocacy for patients, especially those who are underserved and underrepresented, to supersede all other private or personal interests that can change our commitment to our ideals over time,” says Skochko, who plans to practice family medicine. “We need to use the privilege given to us as physicians to affect more than the care we provide in individual patient encounters,” he continues. “It is our obligation and responsibility to work for positive changes that will benefit everyone, especially those who are underserved.”

On the PCOM campus, Skochko's advocacy efforts began when he joined the PCOM Chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), an organization whose mission he describes as “capturing student idealism and translating it into activism through involvement in policy making, decision making and advocacy that affects the delivery of health care.”

Skochko organized the chapter's first annual Cultural Competency Training session. “This was the start of my interest in becoming a socially responsible physician,” recalls Skochko, who later served as chapter president.

Subsequently, he co-founded the

competency education into the College's curriculum. “Physicians and patients each bring their own cultural experience and background to the examining room,” he says. “It's important for physicians to understand how their own experience can affect the patient encounter.”

Through SICC, students are also encouraged to volunteer in the community. “It's vital to get out into the community where your patients live to more fully understand their culture and daily life,” says Skochko, who has volunteered at the West Philadelphia High School Health Fair, Ronald McDonald House and Philadelphia Food Bank. “This enables us to provide more compassionate health care.”

“PCOM has provided an extremely supportive environment for these efforts,” he adds. “The administration and faculty encourage students to collaborate and foster their idealism.”

A PCOM Student Government Association representative for the past three years, Skochko has also held leadership positions in AMSA at the regional and national levels. In 2004-2005, he served as a regional trustee for AMSA, coordinating 21 medical schools and their local projects in the northeastern United States. As AMSA's national treasurer for 2005-2006, he coordinated a \$3.5 million budget supporting student-directed missions and priorities worldwide.

Skochko says his interest in socially

responsible medicine comes from the values his parents instilled in him. “I was always taught to look out for those who can't look out for themselves,” he recalls. He sees osteopathic family medicine as the perfect venue for health care advocacy in the community.

“The osteopathic philosophy is completely aligned with my view of how to deliver health care,” he says. “As a family physician, I will have the opportunity to educate my patients about preventive care and empower them to be involved in their own health and wellness.”

A strong proponent of osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM), Skochko has encouraged students to be involved in OMM research while serving as student liaison for the Sigma Xi Research Society throughout his four years at PCOM. “It's important to continue building the osteopathic evidence base,” says Skochko, who is himself a former research scientist.

Now he looks forward to his residency in family medicine at the David Grant Medical Center, located at Travis Air Force Base in northern California, a designated Center of Excellence for family medicine where he will provide services for members of the military and their families. “I'm excited about working in a model health care system where access is not an issue, patients are compliant and as a result, the patient population is generally more healthy and fit. I hope to learn why that system works so well and, after fulfilling my military service and returning to the civilian sector, use that knowledge in my health care advocacy efforts.”







## Bringing **Help & Hope** After Hurricane Katrina

Amid the devastation and despair following Hurricane Katrina, some PCOM alumni brought help and hope to the people of Louisiana and Mississippi. They set up and staffed emergency trauma centers and helped reopen hospitals. They provided primary care and kindness to residents throughout the shattered area. They searched for the missing and dead. The four alumni featured on these pages displayed in extraordinary ways the commitment to community service so central to osteopathic medicine.

## Hal Bendit, DO '84

Hal Bendit, DO '84, was watching news coverage of the devastation following Hurricane Katrina when he decided that he had to join the relief efforts. "I heard Louisiana officials say that they were desperate for physicians," he recalls. "So I started trying to find a means to go down there, which proved to be surprisingly difficult."



*Dr. Bendit (pictured left)*

After being turned away from numerous agencies that either didn't have a presence in the region or weren't utilizing physicians, Dr. Bendit signed on with the Public Health Service through the Office of the Surgeon General in early September 2005. Nearly a month later, with the blessings of his wife and four partners in family practice in Macungie, Pennsylvania, he boarded a plane for Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and began two weeks of volunteer service.

The day after his arrival, Dr. Bendit was surprised to find himself appointed medical director of a unit of 50 volunteers whose task was to split into four multidisciplinary groups to provide primary care on the road. "The commander picked me out at random. He had no idea what my experience was," says Dr. Bendit. "When I found out that he wanted me to assemble a family practice and put it on wheels, I thought, 'The first part I can do; the second part will be a first but I'll give it a whirl!'"

To accomplish his mission, Dr. Bendit supplied each of the teams with vehicles, maps, medicine and equipment, coordinated their

assignments and provided commanding officers with daily briefings on their activities. Over an 11-day period, the four teams treated 2,165 patients all over the state of Louisiana, from Shreveport to Grand Isle.

"The people on the teams were so motivated," says Dr. Bendit. "Everyone who was there—doctors, nurses and paramedics—knew that they had two weeks to make a difference. They would leave at six in the morning and not return until nine or 10 o'clock at night. They were sleeping in police stations and firehouses, and then waking up and continuing to take care of patients."

The teams treated patients in trailer parks, shelters and parking lots, seeing as many as 150 patients in a day. One trailer park had 2,000 people in 570 trailers with no access to health care. "Before Katrina, Louisiana ranked 47th in the country in terms of health care, so a lot of the patients we treated weren't used to receiving care," says Dr. Bendit. "In addition to injuries sustained from working on their homes, many patients had chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. We weren't checking insurance cards or eligibility. We were writing prescriptions and all they had to do was take them to a pharmacy and FEMA would pay for it. We experienced such an outpouring of gratitude from them. It was very satisfying to be able to help."

Dr. Bendit also found the experience humbling. "Seeing the plight of these people and meeting volunteers who were willing to walk away from their comfortable lives to help for unlimited amounts of time was very overwhelming," he relates. "I was grateful for the opportunity to be part of the relief effort. Getting the teams up and running, and working against all the bureaucracy was like climbing a mountain every day and getting to the top," he says. "It was one of the most difficult things that I've ever done, but also the most rewarding. I absolutely got more than I gave, and I would do it again in a heartbeat."

## Vincent A. Berkley, DO '80

Just a few days after Katrina hit, Vincent A. Berkley, DO '80, received marching orders to head for Louisiana from U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt and U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona, MD, MPH. They assigned him to lead a 21-member team of public health officers charged with the responsibility of keeping the hospitals open in New Orleans and reopening the ones that had closed. On September 2, Dr. Berkley temporarily left his U.S. Public Health Service post as chief medical officer for the Indian Health Service in the Southwest and set out for New Orleans.

The first challenge he and his team faced was trying to get around the city. "When we arrived, some sections were still under 20 to 30 feet of water," Dr. Berkley recalls. "We had to rely on the Department of Defense to take us into some locations by boat, military



*Dr. Berkley (pictured left)*

helicopters and humvees."

Dr. Berkley and his team, which included environmental health officers, mental health workers, physicians and nurses, set up operations at the Ochsner Clinic Foundation, which they found was serving as both a hospital and a hotel. "One nursing unit was housing patients and the other was housing hospital staff and their families so staff members could work," he explains. "This situation underscored the magnitude of the disaster for me."



The first order of business was a brainstorming session with hospital CEOs from all over New Orleans as well as Dr. Carmona and Secretary Leavitt to develop a strategic plan. Dr. Berkley's team then divided into two groups. One was charged with implementing the plan. The second group, comprising 12 behavioral health specialists, provided mental health services to police, fire companies and emergency rescue personnel working in the city.

The strategic planning group first arranged for the Navy hospital ship *USS Comfort* to be brought to New Orleans to serve as a trauma center. Then they conducted an assessment of the closed hospital facilities to determine what was needed to reopen them. The list was daunting. The hospitals had no power, no potable water, no operational sewage treatment plants, no phones, no cellular phone service and no Internet capabilities.

"We had to bring the hospitals back online in a stepwise manner, which took about 30 days," says Dr. Berkley. "In the meantime, we worked with Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) to set up emergency rooms just outside the hospitals so we could address immediate acute needs." In addition, the DMATs addressed public health concerns by administering over 200,000 diphtheria and tetanus immunizations in the first three weeks.

"It took us about 10 days to get generators for power," Dr. Berkley continues. "We had no potable water until the U.S. Army arrived with reverse osmosis systems to make water for us. This was essential since we had to bathe every time we came in contact with the contaminated water flowing all over the city. It was a week before we had cellular phone service and four weeks for the regular phones and 911 system, so we worked with emergency personnel to set up alternate emergency phone numbers."

Once they were able to adequately rebuild a hospital infrastructure, the team first opened the emergency room. Next, they opened a nursing unit with five to 10 beds and a same-day surgery unit. Staffing was a serious

problem because so many hospital staff members had evacuated the city. The team worked with hospital human resources staffs to try to locate them.

"The training I received at PCOM definitely came to bear," reflects Dr. Berkley. "It was clear that a health care system can't work unless all the parts are functioning together as a whole, much like the whole person osteopathic approach to health care."

"I'm proud to know that I had a hand in rebuilding the health care system in New Orleans," says Dr. Berkley, who appeared along with Dr. Carmona on the syndicated Dr. Phil Show. "To know that I could operate successfully in such a challenging arena is very gratifying to me."

## Greg Christiansen, DO '92

When Greg Christiansen, DO '92, arrived in New Orleans shortly after Hurricane Katrina struck, he was confronted with a city nearly devoid of its population, packs of feral dogs and other animals roaming the streets and a host of unknown dangers lurking in the floodwaters.

He was deployed to the city with a Georgia Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), one of many DMATs throughout the country established by the Department of Homeland Security's National Disaster Medical

System. With much of the population evacuated, they were primarily providing medical services to rescue personnel, which included the National Guard, the military and local emergency response services.

"We treated a lot of animal and insect bites, as well as lacerations from falling tree limbs and many conditions resulting from exposure to toxins in and out of the water," says Dr. Christiansen. "We even treated a group of military personnel for nerve agent toxicity after they were exposed to malathion, a chemical that was being sprayed via helicopters to control the mosquitoes."

Once the Touro Infirmary was reopened, Dr. Christiansen returned home to his family in Virginia and his job as educational director for Virginia Commonwealth University's department of emergency medicine. After a brief respite, he was called to serve again in early October and returned to the region with the Virginia-One (VA-1) DMAT. "I'm actually a member of VA-1 DMAT," explains Dr. Christiansen. "I served as medical director of the Georgia team on my first deployment because they were experiencing a shortage of physicians."

During his second deployment, Dr. Christiansen helped augment medical services at West Jefferson Medical Center in New Orleans. As residents

were allowed back in to the city, the team began treating the general population for conditions ranging from respiratory problems and drug and alcohol withdrawal to heart attacks. "We also had several people with broken bones who would have been operated on under different circumstances," says Dr. Christiansen. "We had to set their bones as best

we could. Unfortunately, there was no way to treat them more expeditiously because very few hospitals were operational, and transportation services were very limited."

Many of the 180 patients the team



System (NDMS) to provide medical care during a disaster.

The 38-member team set up camp in a parking garage outside of the Touro Infirmary and worked with hospital personnel to get the facility's emergency department up and



treated each day had a positive attitude despite all the difficulties they'd endured. "I was amazed by their sense of community and how they went out of their way to help others even when they did not have any resources themselves," says Dr. Christiansen. "It wasn't just local people either; people from all over the country were helping. I met a physician from California who was there even though his own home was being threatened by wildfires."

Everyone was grateful for the care they received, and Dr. Christiansen was grateful for the opportunity to provide it. "DMATs are an excellent way to provide services to people in need," he says. "We had the resources to help people immediately and ensure the team's safety while doing so, and we didn't have to worry about regulations or malpractice issues. It was medicine in its purest form."

### Jim McCans, MS/FM '04

Jim McCans, MS/FM '04, got the call for help about three weeks after Katrina struck when the mission of emergency workers in the devastated areas turned from search and rescue to recovery of those missing and presumed dead. Would he be interested in bringing his certified cadaver dog, Stache, trained by the Philadelphia Police Academy under Officer Paul Bryant, to help in the recovery efforts in Mississippi?

Within 24 hours, McCans had arranged to take a nine-day leave from his duties as a full-time forensics instructor at PCOM, and he and Stache, a black Labrador retriever, were on the road to Mississippi with a carload of 100 gallons of bottled water and dog food. Much of the water supply would be used to bathe Stache three times a day. "We knew he would be exposed to a lot of chemicals and other toxic materials during recovery efforts," explains McCans.

Near the end of the 18-hour trip to Mississippi, McCans began to see the magnitude of the disaster. "I saw mile after mile of flattened neighborhoods," he recalls. "It was an area as big and dense as two Delaware Counties. In

one neighborhood, a 30-foot storm surge had sucked up the bottom of the river and deposited a two-inch coating of thick hard smelly mud over everything. Bulldozers had to clear piles of debris to open up residential streets. It looked like Armageddon."

When they arrived at their destination, McCans and Stache were immediately assigned to work with a crew from the Mississippi State Fire Academy. They began each day at a dump site where trucks bringing in trash and debris were lined up for miles. Stache and five other cadaver dogs would sniff the piles of debris brought in the day before to make sure that no human remains were among them. Then McCans and Stache received specific recovery assignments for the day.

"It was 103 degrees and very humid, so I had to make sure Stache got enough water and rest," relates McCans. "I put him in the truck and ran the air conditioning, gave him plenty of water and wet him down often."

During their first assignment, Stache started scratching the ground and barking, indicating that he'd found a body. "It turned out to be a broken family urn with remains inside," says McCans.

Since Stache is also trained to search from boats, the local fish and game commission took McCans and Stache on an assignment that involved searching canals. "Stache suddenly jumped up and started barking and biting at the water, indicating that he smelled something," McCans explains. "About 20 feet away, we heard a big splash and saw an alligator. To my horror, Stache jumped into the water but I keep him on a safety lead and the minute he jumped, I pulled back as hard as I could and yanked him back up out of the water into the boat. It scared the heck out of me."

McCans learned that the fish and game wardens had previously seen the alligator carrying a human body, which they wanted to try to recover. However, all that was left were unidentifiable remains, which Stache had detected.



Another assignment had a happier ending. "We were sent to Gulfport to look for a lady who had insisted on staying in her home during the hurricane," says McCans. "Her neighborhood was destroyed, and her kids reported her missing. When we pulled up to her house, debris was piled up in front of it—personal belongings, car parts, ship parts, mud and seaweed were everywhere. Then we saw an older lady standing amid the debris. She turned out to be the one we were looking for. Her neighbors had talked her into leaving before Katrina hit and she had come back to get her daughter's cell phone number off the refrigerator, which of course, was gone. The rescue crew had the phone number and called her daughter right away."

After an exhausting week, McCans and Stache completed their last assignment and headed for home. "It was really tough duty, but I am so glad that I went and I would do it again in a second," says McCans. "Our efforts truly made a difference in people's lives."

"None of this would have happened without the support of PCOM," he emphasizes. "The College made the commitment to sponsor our training as a cadaver dog team last year and to make our assistance available for community service. And all of my colleagues stepped up and covered my classes and other assignments, working extra hours so that I could go on this mission. They were part of the relief effort, too."



# Bridging Bench to Bedside



*Drs. Kuchera and Balin, co-directors of the CCDA*

*"We're also sponsoring continuing education, such as a speaker on the aging process in the Bruno Bromke Memorial Lecture series, and community activities including the Alzheimer's Walk in Philadelphia, which drew 4,000 participants last year."*

*- Brian J. Balin, PhD*

A new research vision emerges at PCOM . . . scientists and physicians have joined forces to create a new Center for Chronic Disorders of Aging to foster improved health throughout the entire cycle of life.

One is an osteopathic physician with an active practice in clinical research. The other is a bench scientist who pursues the molecular and cellular events that are at the root of the disease process.

Some people who work in health care may see these types of professionals as very different from one another. But these two don't see it that way. They have a vision of uncovering the causes of chronic diseases and of improving the health of patients and preventing disease. They've found the common ground necessary to bring research in the basic sciences and research in clinical medicine together. Their approach bridges the molecular understanding of diseases/disorders with the implementation of corrective measures.



PCOM has provided financial support to launch the new Center for Chronic Disorders of Aging (CCDA), a home base that brings bench scientists and osteopathic physicians together to study the chronic diseases of aging and also to further understanding of how we can promote health and prevent illness. The center's philosophy considers the study of the whole person; it provides an encompassing approach from prevention to therapy throughout the life of the individual.

The College has named two directors of the CCDA. Brian J. Balin, PhD, professor, pathology, microbiology & immunology, is the center's director of basic sciences research. Michael L. Kuchera, DO, professor and director of the OMM Research and Human Performance and Biomechanics Laboratory, is the center's director of clinical research.

"Our profession's golden era in research began with the marriage of osteopathic medicine to basic sciences," explains Dr. Kuchera. "Getting a center such as this off the ground takes a major commitment from the administration and faculty. The unique synergy that occurs when basic scientists and clinical researchers are unified to interact in a common mission is both exciting and productive. Collaboration is key within the PCOM community and in partnership with other osteopathic schools in clinical trials or other research efforts."

Dr. Kuchera says the CCDA team ultimately "seeks health" and that by studying diseases and the problems they create, he and his colleagues will gain a better understanding of success-

## Research focus at the center will include:

- Alzheimer's Disease (*Drs. Appelt, Balin, Fresa-Dillon and Little in the Adolph & Rose Levis Foundation Alzheimer's Disease Laboratory*)
- Cardiovascular/Reperfusion Injury (*Dr. Young*)
- Chronic Inflammatory Responses (*Drs. Borghaei, Daghigh and Thornton*)
- COPD (*Drs. Goldstein, Kuo, Simelaro and Williams-Page*)
- Diabetes (*Drs. Greene and Salzer*)
- Hormonal Dysfunction (*Dr. McGuinness*)
- Multiple Sclerosis (*Drs. Hingley and Kuchera*)
- Osteoarthritis (*Dr. D'Angelo*)
- Parkinson's Disease (*Drs. Daghigh, Felgoise, Galluzzi, Kuchera, A. Nicholas and Stewart*)
- Quality of Life (*Drs. Felgoise, Galluzzi, Kuchera and Stewart*)
- Rheumatoid Arthritis (*Dr. Mochan*)
- Stem Cells (*Dr. George-Weinstein*)
- Transplantation and Wound Repair (*Dr. Greene*)

ful aging. "Today, we are seeking health solutions for our aging society—from birth to advanced age."

Drs. Kuchera and Balin agree that the success of the center depends on the involvement and collaboration of a number of people. Dr. Balin emphasizes, "Our job is to bring together, under one umbrella, basic and applied research, educational opportunities, and clinical application."

## The Team Approach

The hallways at PCOM are abuzz with news of the new center. "My

fellow researchers are very committed to the center," notes Dr. Balin. "They see this as a great opportunity to develop interdisciplinary collaborations with others in the basic sciences and also with clinicians. The potential is highly significant."

Mindy George-Weinstein, PhD, professor, anatomy, realizes this too. She's a member of the advisory board of the center because

she believes in the power of a collective effort. "Individual investigators will benefit, but new ideas come from integrating different fields of study," she says. "It's good for investigators, and it's good for the College." When researchers are aware of others' work they can share ideas and equipment, maximizing efforts and resources.

Dr. George-Weinstein adds that "clinicians often can help bench scientists interpret data and provide direction for future studies." She cites her own embryonic stem cell research as an example: "If we can understand how stem cells form tissues in the embryo, we can apply this knowledge in the clinical setting by pushing stem cells to form the desired tissue in diseased organs of the adult."

## Drawing Interest

The development of a center draws applicants to PCOM, attracts professors and post-doctoral fellows, and increases the chances of garnering research grants.

In one case, already, Dr. Balin explains, a colleague received a favorable review after applying for a research grant. The review spelled out that PCOM's level of commitment to the project was a factor—and that the College's commitment was made clear by the existence of the center for Chronic Disorders of Aging. "The difference of having the center, having that center's name out there, was clearly evident in black and white," notes Dr. Balin. Dr. Kuchera agrees: "Having that name attached to a grant application definitely draws the reviewer's attention; it can set you apart."

PCOM has set aside initial funding for the Center for Chronic Disorders of Aging, and the amount of outside research funding already points to a bright future. The directors are pursuing collaborative approaches both with PCOM and outside of the College. Working with other institutions will foster opportunities for grants from traditional and non-traditional sources, through private donations, foundations and lobbying efforts.



(from left) Drs. George-Weinstein, Young and Little





## CLASSNOTES

### Class of 1933

Rachel A. Witmyer, DO, Horton, MI, was honored at the 60th anniversary of the founding of West Side Osteopathic Hospital, which later evolved into Memorial Hospital in York, Pennsylvania. Dr. Witmyer is one of 14 founders of the hospital.

### Class of 1944

**Class Agent:** Morris J. Cherrey, DO 610-623-8712, [mjconcall@verizon.net](mailto:mjconcall@verizon.net)  
James W. Sillaman, DO, Latrobe, PA, and James W. Sillaman, III, DO '72, were highlighted in an article that appeared in the *Latrobe Bulletin* titled "Three generations of medical services span 100 years."

### Class of 1955

**Class Agent:** Michael J. Zappitelli, Sr., DO 610-279-3008



**Norman H. Ilowite, DO**, Fort Lee, NJ, retired as course director of dermatology at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. From 1982 to 2003 he developed and directed the derma-

tology course given to sophomores at the college. He also directed the dermatology clinic. The 1986 and 1987 classes honored Dr. Ilowite by presenting him with the "Excellence in Teaching Award." Dr. Ilowite continues to practice part-time and in his spare time is a piper member of the New York Scottish Pipes and Drums.

### Class of 1961

**Class Agent:** Donald Bruaw, DO 717-728-0569, [dabdoc@aol.com](mailto:dabdoc@aol.com)  
David Rowe, DO, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and his wife, Margaret, have relocated to San Miguel de Allende in central Mexico. Dr. Rowe is co-chair of the medical committee for Patronato Pro Ninos, a non-profit volunteer organization that provides medical and dental services for needy Mexican children.

## Thomas Scott, DO '54



### NOT THE RETIRING SORT

Thomas Scott, DO '54, has been around the block more than a few times in his career—both literally and figuratively. After 33 years in his own small-town practice in Delaware City, Delaware, and five years as medical director of St. Francis Hospital's HMO, Dr. Scott took his show on the road, so to speak, when, through a desire to help the poor, good timing and providence, he acquired a fully equipped, handicapped-ready medical van.

In 1991, Dr. Scott attended a conference sponsored by the Christian Medical and Dental Society called "Share the Vision: Health Care for the Poor." At the end of the conference, he recalls, "I promised God I'd start to work for the homeless in Wilmington—not having any idea how I would do it." Upon his return to Delaware, all the pieces began to fall in place to make his promise a reality. The HMO where he worked had been sold, and the CEO of St. Francis was eager for the hospital to get involved in community outreach. Dr. Scott met with the Ministry of Caring, a local ecumenical group that sponsors homeless shelters, soup kitchens, a job placement program and other support programs for the poor. The Ministry of Caring could offer support, but not space in which to practice. This was not a death knell for the project because Dr. Scott had found an advertisement for a medical van. So, with funding and resources from several foundations, St. Francis Hospital and the Ministry of Caring, the St. Clare Medical Outreach Van hit the streets of Wilmington, Delaware.

For almost ten years, four days a week, Dr. Scott and his team took health care to the homeless. But his caring did not rest on the weekends. On Sunday mornings he would stop by shelters and pick up people for church and often take them home to his house for dinner. About his work with the homeless, he says, "Anybody who doesn't work with the poor and homeless is crazy. It's so rewarding everyone should experience it. People miss a lot of joy by not taking risks. Not everyone can do exactly what I'm doing, but they should get into some kind of service, even if it's a couple of hours a month." But, Dr. Scott, points out, "success without a successor is failure," so when another physician expressed interest in running the van, Dr. Scott, at age 75, decided to step aside.

But that certainly doesn't mean Dr. Scott has retired. He still keeps an eye on the van and its mission, and takes every opportunity to talk to groups about the van and solicit donations. At the request of the CEO of St. Francis Hospital, he volunteers there as a patient advocate, and he is a substitute high school science teacher. He's performed stand-up comedy and still makes the rounds as an after-dinner speaker and as a master of ceremonies at various events. "I'm having lots of fun," he reports. "Anyone can go home and wait to die; that doesn't take any talent. I'm not about to do that."



## CLASSNOTES

### Class of 1966

Class Agent: H. Michael Zal, DO  
610-664-7223, [dochmz@msn.com](mailto:dochmz@msn.com)

Ronald Cowen, DO, Saint Davids, PA, was appointed to the board of directors of Episcopal Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### Class of 1967

Class Agent: Sherman Leis, DO  
610-667-1888, [drsleis@aol.com](mailto:drsleis@aol.com)

Gary Zisk, DO, Brooklyn, NY, was elected secretary/treasurer of the American Society of Bariatric Physicians.

### Class of 1968

Class Agent: Alfred J. Poggi, DO  
814-443-3637, [epoggi@aol.com](mailto:epoggi@aol.com)

Kenneth J. Ciongoli, DO, Burlington, VT, was elected national chairman of the National Italian American Foundation.

### Class of 1969

Class Agents: David A. Bevan, DO  
610-642-7637

Harry E. Manser, Jr., DO

609-477-0800, [hmanser@aol.com](mailto:hmanser@aol.com)

John M. Giuliano, DO, Seaford, DE, was selected by colleague physicians as one of Delaware's "top family practitioners," as reported by *Delaware Today*.

### Class of 1972

Class Agent: Joan M. Watkins, DO  
813-615-7755, [jwatkins@mail.uch.org](mailto:jwatkins@mail.uch.org)

James W. Sillaman, III, DO, Latrobe, PA, and James W. Sillaman, DO '44, were highlighted in an article that appeared in the *Latrobe Bulletin* titled "Three generations of medical services span 100 years."

### Class of 1973

Class Agent: Herbert J. Rogove, DO  
949-764-6058, [hrogove@hoaghospital.org](mailto:hrogove@hoaghospital.org)

Donald J. Schnapf, DO, Willow Street, PA, joined Carlisle Regional Medical Center.

John G. Trzesniowski, DO, Yardley, PA, received Port Richmond *Star's* "2005 People's Choice Award for Favorite Medical Professional."

### Class of 1975

Class Agent: Jon J. O'Brien, SJ, DO  
202-965-6912, [jo25@georgetown.edu](mailto:jo25@georgetown.edu)

Alexander S. Nicholas, DO, West Chester, PA, co-authored an article that appeared in *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* titled "Preoperative intravenous morphine sulfate with postoperative osteopathic manipulative treatment reduces patient analgesic use after total abdominal hysterectomy."

### Class of 1976

Class Agent: R. Michael Gallagher, DO  
856-354-1403, [gallagrm@umdnj.edu](mailto:gallagrm@umdnj.edu)

Thomas M. Campbell, DO, Harveys Lake, PA, was named to the board of directors of Northeast Regional Cancer Institute.

R. Michael Gallagher, DO, Haddonfield, NJ, wrote the chapter titled "Primary Headache Disorders" in the textbook *Weiner's Pain Management*. His article "Headache in Medical Education: Medical Schools, Neurology and Family Practice Residencies" was published in the *Journal of Headache*, and a second article, "Headache Pain," was published in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*.

William R. Henwood, DO, Sharon, PA, was named "Outstanding Surgeon of the Year" at the graduation dinner for the house staff at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Horizon.

### Class of 1977

Class Agent: H. Sprague Taveau, IV, DO  
806-212-5750, [glorysix1@cox.net](mailto:glorysix1@cox.net)

Peter F. Diamond, DO, Amsterdam, NY, received the "2005 Citizen-of-the-Year Award" presented by the Amsterdam Family Young Men's Christian Association.

Suzanne K. Kelley, DO, Harrisburg, PA, was appointed to a three-year term as a representative to the American Osteopathic Association's board of trustees.

Norman E. Vinn, DO, San Clemente, CA, was elected first vice president of the American Osteopathic Association's House of Delegates.

### Class of 1978

Class Agent: Lorraine M. Disipio, DO  
610-623-7230, [ldisipio@comcast.net](mailto:ldisipio@comcast.net)

Cynthia A. Gabrielli, DO, Hockessin, DE, was selected by colleague physicians as one of Delaware's "top pediatricians," as reported by *Delaware Today*. Samuel J. Garloff, DO, Etters, PA, was elected vice president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

### Class of 1980

Class Agent: Steven J. Fagan, DO

843-743-7753, [navya4@bellsouth.net](mailto:navya4@bellsouth.net)

David A. Bitonte, DO, Louisville, OH, graduated from the American Osteopathic Association's Health Policy Fellowship Program.

Laura Dalton, DO, Oaklyn, NJ, is vice president of the board of trustees' executive committee of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Pat C. DiTommaso, DO, Girard, OH, was elected to a five-year term on the Trumbull County Board of Health.

### Class of 1982

Class Agent: Anthony J. Silvagni, DO  
954-262-1407, [ajsilvagni@aol.com](mailto:ajsilvagni@aol.com)

Jeanne E. Grove, DO, Pittsford, NY, was honored by the American Medical Women's Association. This honor is bestowed upon women physicians who have demonstrated commitment, innovation and creativity in the field of medicine.

William Sommers, DO, Centreville, DE, was selected by colleague physicians as one of Delaware's "top neurologists," as reported by *Delaware Today*.



## CLASSNOTES

### Class of 1983

**Class Agent:** Mary Ann Dibiagio, DO  
724-758-7559, [mdibiagio@hvhs.org](mailto:mdibiagio@hvhs.org)

**Gary G. Berger, DO**, Leawood, KS, was selected by Kansas City's business magazine, *Ingram's*, as the "top doc in physical medicine and rehabilitation." **Richard P. Frey, DO**, Willow Street, PA, was elected chairman of the board of directors of the Lancaster Osteopathic Health Foundation.

**Howard Hassman, DO**, Berwyn, PA, authored, "Differences in Cognitive Function Due to Acute Sedative Effects of Risperidone and Quetiapine in Stable Bipolar I Disorder Outpatients." He presented his paper at the ACNP meeting in December and will present at upcoming APA and NCDEU meetings.

**Robert D. McGarrigle, DO**, Media, PA, was selected by colleague physicians as one of Delaware's "top general surgeons," as reported by *Delaware Today*.

### Class of 1984

**Class Agent:** Paul V. Suhey, DO  
814-231-2101, [pvs@uoc.com](mailto:pvs@uoc.com)

**David Coffey, DO**, Wetumpka, AL, had his article "C1 Somatic Dysfunction and Unilateral Retro-orbital Cephalalgia," published in the *American Academy of Osteopathy Journal*.

**Daniel M. O'Roark, DO**, Kingsport, TN, joined Cardiovascular Associates.

### Class of 1985

**Class Agent:** Michael P. Meyer, DO  
717-721-5700, [mmeyer8700@aol.com](mailto:mmeyer8700@aol.com)

**Anthony D. Alfieri, DO**, Wilmington, DE, was selected by colleague physicians as one of Delaware's "top cardiovascular surgeons," as reported by *Delaware Today*.

**Lawrence J. Bellew, DO**, Chadds Ford, PA, was selected by colleague physicians as one of Delaware's "top vascular surgeons," as reported by *Delaware Today*.

**Stephen Fisher, DO**, Grove City, OH, was elected president of the Columbus Osteopathic Association.

**Joseph F. Karnish, DO**, Georgetown, DE, was selected by colleague physicians as one of Delaware's "top family practitioners," as reported by *Delaware Today*.

**David C. Koronkiewicz, DO**, Goshen, IN, was elected vice president of the Indiana Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

**Joseph P. Olekszyk, DO**, Seaford, DE, was selected by colleague physicians as one of Delaware's "top ear, nose and throat specialists," as reported by *Delaware Today*.

### Class of 1986

**Class Agent:** John C. Seftor, DO  
410-337-7900

**Scott J.M. Lim, DO**, Erie, PA, was awarded the gold level of recognition (1,000+ hours) from the American Academy of Dermatology Leadership Circle for Volunteerism.

**Daniel B. Sullivan, DO**, Leesburg, FL, has been actively involved in mission work in China and Tanzania, helping to establish cardiac surgery programs within their hospitals. Dr. Sullivan and his wife have started a not-for-profit organization, "Crossing Hearts Corp," enabling them to provide services abroad and within the United States. Any physicians interested in additional information should telephone 352-787-9838.

**Michael J. Zawisza, DO**, Orwigsburg, PA, was elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

### Class of 1987

**Class Agent:** Thomas J. Dagney, III, DO  
812-885-3810, [tjd3@charter.net](mailto:tjd3@charter.net)

**Michael A. Becker, DO**, Blue Bell, PA, received the "Frederick J. Solomon, DO Award of Merit," which was presented by the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society.

**Michelle D. Jones, DO**, Allentown, PA, was highlighted in an article published in the *Salisbury Press* titled "Salisbury school physician performs many services for the district."

**Wonsuck Kim, DO**, Florence, AL, was selected as one of three physicians in Alabama as a "champion of change" and will be featured in a documentary to be aired on television in the spring of 2006. Dr. Kim created a non-profit organization called EyeCare Alabama, where volunteer ophthalmologists donate their time and services to travel to rural and underserved communities in the state to provide eye examinations and treatment.

**Daniel J. Parenti, DO**, Marlton, NJ, has been recertified in critical care medicine by the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine.

### Class of 1988

**Class Agent:** Eric M. Lipnack, DO  
856-784-0444, [elipnack@comcast.net](mailto:elipnack@comcast.net)  
**Gregory G. Papadeas, DO**, Englewood, CO, was selected by colleague physicians as Denver's "top dermatologist" as reported by *5280 Magazine*.

### Class of 1989

**Class Agents:** Judith Richmond Prybick, DO, 610-366-8445, [gmpjrp@aol.com](mailto:gmpjrp@aol.com)  
**Coleen M. Smith, DO**  
423-722-9355, [colsmithdo@pol.net](mailto:colsmithdo@pol.net)  
**Bryan S. McCarthy, DO**, Dover, DE, was selected by colleague physicians as Delaware's "top anesthesiologists," as reported by *Delaware Today*.

### Class of 1990

**Class Agent:** Jennifer Waxler, DO  
[jwaxler@sbhcs.com](mailto:jwaxler@sbhcs.com)  
**Lynne C. Columbus, DO**, Tampa, FL, was highlighted in the cover article titled "Thriving Under Medicare... Three Success Stories," which appeared in the May 2005 issue of *Physicians Practice*.  
**Joanne Goshow-Harris, DO**, Newark, DE, was selected by colleague physicians as one of Delaware's "top obstetricians/gynecologists," as reported by *Delaware Today*.  
**Daniel R. Smith, DO**, Appleton, WI, joined Affinity Medical Group Family Practice clinic in Kaukauna, Wisconsin.





## CLASSNOTES

### Class of 1992

**Class Agent:** Daniel J. Kupas, DO

724-845-6360, [djkkcvcn@comcast.net](mailto:djkkcvcn@comcast.net)

**Thomas D. Beck, DO**, Ocean City, MD, received media coverage for his article published in the August 5, 2005, issue of *The Daily Times* titled "Common Cause of Hand Pain Can Be Alleviated."

**James A. Groff, DO**, Landisville, PA, published a chapter in *Critical Care Toxicology* titled "Toxin-induced Renal Failure Syndrome." Dr. Groff was also awarded "2005 Inpatient Teacher of the Year" by the Lancaster General Hospital Family Practice Program.

**Thomas D. Mino, DO**, Broomfield, CO, was elected president of the Colorado Society of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Albert J. Tuono, DO**, Huntingdon, PA, joined the medical staff at J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital.

### Class of 1993

**Class Agents:** Larissa Fernando-

Dominy, DO, 610-409-8147,

[larissa@dominy.net](mailto:larissa@dominy.net)

**Clara M. Higgins, DO**

302-644-9644, [cmhdo@aol.com](mailto:cmhdo@aol.com)

**Jeffrey M. Briglia, DO**, Emmaus, PA, joined the medical staff at St. Luke's Hospital-Bethlehem.

**David L. Williams, DO**, Carlisle, PA, joined Women's Health Specialists of Carlisle.

### Class of 1994

**Class Agent:** Judith A. Gardner, DO

215-428-9383, [judygocats@verizon.net](mailto:judygocats@verizon.net)

**Stacey J. Carlitz, DO**, Clarks Summit, PA, joined Women's Care Center.

**Anita W. Eisenhart, DO**, Hopewell Junction, NY, traveled to Philadelphia to compete with over 8,000 runners in the 28th Annual Jefferson Hospital Philadelphia Distance Run, a 13.1-mile half marathon, on September 18, 2005.

**William P. Galli, DO**, Mountain Home, AR, joined Burnett-Croom-Lincoln-Paden-Williams Clinic. Dr. Galli recently completed a one-year critical care fellowship in St. Louis, Missouri.

## On a Personal Note



**Sara Brooks, PA-C '02**, Ridley Park, PA, married Gerald Mancini on June 25, 2005 at Holy Cross Church in Springfield, Pennsylvania. Ms. Brooks is employed by a dermatologist in Northeast Philadelphia.

**Jennifer B. Coren, DO '03**, Huntingdon Valley, PA, and **Joshua S. Coren, DO '02**, are the proud parents of their second child, Sarah-Grace, born on September 20, 2005. She joins her brother Zachary, age three.

**Christopher A. Davis, DO '00**, Springfield, PA, and his wife, Kelly Ann, are the proud parents of Deni Christine, born on November 3, 2005.

**Nicole Heisman, DO '00**, Collegeville, PA, married Elliott Rifkin at the Hotel Dupont in Wilmington, Delaware, on September 25, 2005. They honeymooned in Italy and now reside in Collegeville, Pennsylvania.

**Bradley S. Hiles, DO '98**, Wexford, PA, and his wife, Kelly, are the proud parents of Brandon Vaughn, born on August 3, 2005.

**Rosemary Hoffman, PA-C '02**, Hammonton, NJ, married Steve DeCicco on August 21, 2004, in Woodbury, New Jersey.

**Patrick J. McHugh, DO '02**, Strafford, PA, and his wife, **Keri Jo McHugh, DO '02**, are the proud parents of Liam Patrick, born on October 25, 2005. The Drs. McHugh currently serve as emergency physicians at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany; they welcome friends and colleagues to stay in touch via [www.mchughdo.com](http://www.mchughdo.com).

**Brenda R. Sharratt, DO '91**, Sentani, Papua, Indonesia, married Yusman Boas Enumbi on August 25, 2005, in Mulia, Papua, Indonesia. A second wedding is planned in the States next year.

**Lori Ann Truman, DO '97**, Yardley, PA, married Jason Glyndon Kraft on September 17, 2005, in Carbondale, Pennsylvania. The honeymoon was a Mediterranean cruise to Spain, France, Italy and Greece. Dr. Truman-Kraft is a partner with Bucks Family Medicine in Levittown, Pennsylvania.

**Daniel J. Wilkin, DO '02**, Matawan, NJ, and his wife, Jennifer, are the proud parents of Harrison Daniel, born on August 12, 2005. Dr. Wilkin joined Robert Pearson, DO, at Bergen Primary Care Associates in Emerson, New Jersey.



## CLASSNOTES

Todd A. Taylor, DO, Mifflintown, PA, was named "2005 Preceptor of the Year" by Northcentral Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center.

### Class of 1995

**Class Agent:** Francis N. Ogbolu, DO  
606-833-9870

**Robert J. Brus, DO**, Boothwyn, PA, was selected by colleague physicians as one of Delaware's "top internists," as reported by *Delaware Today*.

**Robert F. Kopecki, DO**, Avondale, PA, was selected by colleague physicians as one of Delaware's "top internists," as reported by *Delaware Today*.

### Class of 1997

**Class Agent:** Daniel W. Matkiwsky, DO  
908-353-7949

**Jerome V. Benz, Jr., DO**, York, PA, joined the medical staff at Eyes of York.

**Matthew R. Cole, DO**, Greensburg, PA, joined Jeannette Medical Providers and Mercy Jeannette Hospital.

**Phan Nguyen, DO**, Davison, MI, joined McClaren Community Medical Center in Davison and McClaren OB/GYN Associated in Flushing, Michigan.

### Class of 1998

**Class Agent:** James V. Lieb, DO  
814-946-2708

**Jonathan M. Gusdorff, DO**, Harveys Lake, PA, joined Delaware Open MRI.

**David E. Henner, DO**, Pittsfield, MA, joined the medical staff at Berkshire Medical Center.

**Anthony S. Leazzo, DO**, Plainfield, IL, joined the medical staff at Corwin Medical Care in Plainfield.

**Chad Potteiger, DO**, Maryville, TN, joined the medical staff at Blount Memorial Hospital.

### Class of 1999

**Class Agent:** Tabatha Jeffers, DO  
814-375-0460, froggytlj@hotmail.com

**Donald M. Sesso, DO**, Gwynedd Valley, PA, completed a six-year ENT-facial plastic surgery residency at

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is currently serving as chief resident at PCOM.

### Class of 2000

**Class Agent:** Edward Casey, DO  
casey.edward@may.edu

**Keith Boell, DO**, Danville, PA, Geisinger Medical Center's internal medicine pediatrics 2005 chief resident, has joined Geisinger as a full time staff member.

**Shannon Kearney, DO**, Trexlertown, PA, joined the medical staff at Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network.

**Matthew McElroy, DO**, Danville, PA, joined the sports medicine team at Geisinger Medical Center.

**Anita J. Sinese, DO**, Lansdale, PA, joined Central Montgomery Medical Center as a hospitalist.

### Class of 2001

**Class Agents:** Connie Andrejko, DO,  
and Kenneth Andrejko, DO  
215-873-8384

**Nicholas A. Grimaldi, DO**, York, PA, received honorable mention in the 2005 POMA Clinical Essay Contest for his article titled "A retrospective study comparing perioperative autotransfusion and Hemovac use after total knee arthroplasty: Is a perioperative autotransfusion system indicated for everyone?"

**C. Christopher Harootunian, DO**, Carver, MA, joined Plymouth-Carver Primary Care.

**Ian Dennis Holgado, DO**, West Chester, PA, joined the department of family practice at Chester County Hospital.

**Raquel M. Szlanic, DO**, Philadelphia, PA, joined the medical staff at Main Line Health Center in Exton, Pennsylvania.

**Dominic J. Valentino, III, DO**, Philadelphia, PA, was awarded the "Best Case Presentation in Airway I Category" at the 71st Annual American College of Chest Physicians' Meeting in Montreal, Quebec (November 2005).

### Class of 2002

**Sandra Ranieri Costa, DO**, Harrisburg, PA, successfully completed the American Osteopathic Board of Family Practice examination in March 2005.

On June 18, 2005, Dr. Costa graduated from the Harrisburg Family Practice Residency Program and was the recipient of the "Society for Teachers of Family Medicine Outstanding Teaching Resident Award." She is employed at Pinnacle Health as an attending family medicine physician.

**Michelle L. Landis, DO**, Jefferson, NC, joined Ashe Medical Associates.

**Brandon S. Poterjoy, DO**, Philadelphia, PA, completed a pediatric residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in June 2005. In July 2005, he began a three-year fellowship in neonatal/perinatal medicine at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

**Mark L. Stabile, Jr., DO**, Hermitage, PA, joined the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's medical staff and Daisley Family Practice.

### Class of 2003

**David W. Kaylor, DO**, Harker Heights, TX, was selected chief resident for 2005-2006 at Darnell Army Hospital in Fort Hood, Texas.

### Class of 2004

**Nicole M. Agostino, DO**, Perkasié, PA, was the recipient of Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association's "2005 Golden Quill Award" for her article titled "Case Report: Uncommon Presentation of Metastatic Non-small Cell Lung Cancer."

**Stacy Franz, DO**, New York, NY, was named "Intern of the Year" at Union Hospital. She is a resident in physical and rehabilitation therapy at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, the University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell.



## CLASSNOTES

### □ Ashley Kase, MS '05 (EdS '08)



#### GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

With a dual degree in psychology and business under her belt, Ashley Kase, MS '05 (EdS '08), left academia and went to work in an organizational consulting firm. It wasn't long before she knew that a corporate career wasn't what she wanted. She wanted to find a way to help children without being a teacher. She looked at her options and decided to earn her master's degree in school psychology at

PCOM. Ashley not only earned her master's degree, she also received the Dean's Award for academic and personal excellence and is now enrolled in the school's Educational Specialist program.

While working toward her degree full time, she is also a full-time Pre-K assistant teacher. "Having experience in the classroom will help me work more effectively with teachers when I'm a school psychologist," she explains. Ashley wants to continue her work in a pre-school setting as a school psychologist. "I feel that's where I can have the biggest impact," she says. "I can already see four-year-olds who need help. And I've seen the impact one person can have."

The need for school psychologists was driven home for Ashley when she completed her practicum during her master's program. "I shadowed a school psychologist at an inner-city elementary school," she explains. "There were so many kids with so many needs and only one school psychologist for four schools. It was heartbreaking."

Ashley notes that she chose PCOM because she "liked the clinical and medical aspects of the program. It's important to know what chronic health issues mean for a child in a school setting. As school psychologists, we need to help the parents and teachers understand how to cope as well as how to address the specific needs of the kids who have the health issues."

As far as leaving the business world behind, Ashley has no regrets. "I like the school environment much more than business. I like watching the children's progress and making a difference in their lives. At the end of the day, I really feel that I've accomplished something important."

#### *Class of 2005*

**Sean McMillan, DO**, Blackwood, NJ, was a third-place winner in the Student Prize Competition at the 2005 AOA Research Conference Poster Session for his presentation, "Porcine Small Intestine Submucosa for Modeling Elbow Ulnar Collateral Ligament Regeneration: Pt. 2." His co-investigators were **Kathleen Boyle, DO '05**;

**Griffin Bicking, DO '05**; **Matthew Grove, DO '05**; **George McKay, DO '05**; **Margie Orris, DO '05**; and **Charlotte H. Greene, PhD**, professor, neuroscience, physiology & pharmacology.

#### CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

**John W. Becher, DO '70**, Newtown Square, PA, was the recipient of the "Bruce D. Horton, DO Lifetime Achievement Award" presented by the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

**David A. Bitonte, DO '80**, Louisville, OH, was elected president of the Ohio Osteopathic Medical Association.

**James D. Bove, III, DO '91**, Marion, OH, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

**John B. Bulger, DO '95**, Danville, PA, was inducted as the 2005 teacher of the year of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

**Thomas G. DiPasquale, DO '81**, Temple Terrace, FL, was inducted as a fellow of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics.

**Patrick L. Elliott, DO '88**, Media, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

**Simona C. Eng, DO '98**, Salisbury, MD, was inducted as a fellow of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics.

**Robert P. Falconiero, DO '84**, Moorestown, NJ, was elected president of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics.

**John M. Ferretti, II, DO '73**, Erie, PA, received the "Distinguished Service Award" presented by the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

**Stacey L. Fitch, DO '97**, King of Prussia, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

**Cynthia Fokas Gessler, DO '97**, Malvern, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

**Terrie B. Ginsberg, DO '97**, Elkins Park, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.





## CLASSNOTES

### CERTIFICATES OF MERIT (CONTINUED)

**Louis C. Haenel, III, DO '70**, Stratford, NJ, was the 2005 internist of the year of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

**Gary R. Hill, DO '84**, Fort Lauderdale, FL, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

**Suzanne K. Kelley, DO '77**, Harrisburg, PA, was named "Family Physician of the Year" by the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society.

**Glenn A. Kline, DO '83**, Lancaster, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

**Joseph J. Kuchinski, DO '86**, Mountain Lakes, NJ, was the recipient of the "Meritorious Service Award" presented by the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

**Leslie B. Latterman, DO '90**, Pittsburgh, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

**Robert I. Lewis, DO '77**, Plain City, OH, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

**Judith A. Lightfoot, DO '92**, Sewell, NJ, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

**Timothy J. Lilly, DO '85**, Grove City, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

**Douglas L. McGee, DO '87**, Birchrunville, PA, was the recipient of the "Benjamin A. Field, DO Mentor Award" presented by the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

**John J. McPhilemy, DO '78**, Lafayette Hill, PA, was named "Sports Medicine Physician of the Year" by the Philadelphia Congress of Sports Medicine.

**Stephen D. Mifsud, DO '83**, York, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

**Thomas D. Mino, DO '92**, Broomfield, CO, was elected president of the Colorado Society of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Daniel E. Oberdick, Sr., DO '84**, York, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

**Andrea D. Pedano, DO '90**, Philadelphia, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

**Mary E. Quillinan, DO '86**, Lakeland, FL, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

**Janis A. Roberts, DO '87**, Troy, OH, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

**Kevin R. Roth, DO '97**, Orefield, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

**Irwin Rothman, VMD, DO '51**, Wynnwood, PA, was bestowed the title of professor emeritus by Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Erik I. Soiferman, DO '99**, Phoenixville, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

**Joseph J. Stella, DO '91**, Pittston, PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

**Elizabeth M. Tucker, DO '93**, Hamilton, NY, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

## □ | Domenic DeBias, PhD



### IN MEMORIAM

Domenic DeBias, PhD, Philadelphia, PA, passed away on January 2, 2006. Dr. DeBias stood at the helm of PCOM's physiology and pharmacology department for 22 years, but he is remembered first and foremost as a respected and beloved teacher (many students called

him, "DAD"—his initials). The recipient of eight Teacher of the Year awards, he was also presented with the prestigious Lindback Foundation Award for distinguished teaching.

Dr. DeBias joined PCOM in 1975 as professor and chair of physiology and pharmacology. He also held the

titles of assistant dean for basic sciences and assistant dean for special programs. In 1998, he was named professor emeritus.

Dr. DeBias earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Temple University and his doctoral degree in physiology from Jefferson Medical College. He also received a diploma in aerospace medicine from the U.S. Air Force Training Command, Brooks Air Force Base, TX. He was a postdoctoral fellow in the division of endocrine and cancer research, as well as a public health fellow at Jefferson Medical College.

Dr. DeBias is survived by his wife Eleanor and five children, two of whom are family physicians, one a PCOM graduate.



## In Memoriam

**William M.I. Barrett, DO '69,**  
Cheltenham, PA, November 8, 2005.  
**Frank P. Baskin, DO '55,**  
Philadelphia, PA, November 21, 2005.  
**Leonard Becker, DO '45,** Boca Raton,  
FL, September 11, 2005.  
**Charles J. Berg, DO '72,** Wadsworth,  
OH, August 29, 2005.  
**Anthony F. Ciliberti, DO '61,**  
Hilltop, NJ, August 1, 2005.  
**Bernard J. Cohen, DO '44,** Tamarac,  
FL, February 10, 2006.  
**Kenneth W. Dunkle, Jr., DO '79,**  
Grove City, PA, September 3, 2005.  
**Peter Engelhard, DO '91,** Miami  
Beach, FL, January 22, 2006.  
**Bruce C. Equi, DO '75,** Port Saint  
Lucie, FL, December 13, 2005.  
**Quentin R. Flickenger, DO '51,**  
Virginia Beach, VA, July 5, 2005.  
**Gregory S. Foster, DO '85,** Annadale,  
NJ, August 25, 2005.  
**Norman M. Gordon, DO '42,** Cape  
May, NJ, October 19, 2005.  
**Seymour M. Guyer, DO '53,**  
Wyncote, PA, November 2, 2005.  
**Jennings B. Joye, DO '53,** Winter  
Haven, FL, October 7, 2005.  
**Murray Klein, DO '77,** Oaklyn, NJ,  
December 12, 2005.  
**R. Raymond Kuptsow, DO '40,**  
Wyncote, PA, November 25, 2005.  
**Phyllis J. May, RN '57,** Rio Rancho,  
NM, May 2005.  
**Floyce D. McCauley, DO '72,**  
Hilltown, PA, December 18, 2005.  
**Roy N. Pasker, DO '65,** Montgomery,  
AL, October 6, 2005.  
**Albert Sine, DO '70,** Boynton Beach,  
FL, November 19, 2005.  
**William P. Sutherland, DO '75,**  
Ashtabula, OH, September 15, 2005.  
**Susan Todaro, DO '79,** Oak Ridge,  
NJ, May 2005.  
**Louis C. Zlotkin, DO '42,** Cranberry,  
NJ, April 14, 2005.

## □ Roy N. Pasker, DO '65



### IN MEMORIAM

Roy Pasker, DO '65, Montgomery, AL, passed away on October 6, 2005. A great physician and supporter of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, he served the College as professor of psychiatry and as vice chair of the department of psychiatry.

A decorated war hero (including a Bronze star for valor and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm), Dr. Pasker served with honor in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam conflict. He served as battalion surgeon, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment ("The Walking Dead"), 3rd Marine Division.

In Montgomery, Alabama, Dr. Pasker served first as medical director of Meadhaven at Baptist Medical Center and then as clinical director of Greil State Psychiatric Hospital. He retired from Greil in September 2005.

Dr. Pasker was past president of the Alabama Osteopathic Medical Association and a member of the American Osteopathic Association and the Medical Association of the State of Alabama.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Rose Diane, a son, a daughter and two grandchildren.

Of his friend and colleague, David Coffey, DO '84, remembers, "Roy's greatest attribute was that he cared and that you knew he cared. He was always a focused listener. He found the good in everyone, especially the lowliest, because he felt everyone came from God and God was good."



ESSAY

# My Turn

By Debra Bjork (DO '09)

I am crying as I write this reflection because that is what I do when my life is so unbelievable. You see, I am not your typical medical student. My fellow classmates call me “Mama PCOM” because I am as old as most of their mothers.

My academic experience also diverges in many ways from their more traditional experiences. For me, the road to medical school was long and tenuous. I applied in vain for three years to an allopathic medical school in the vicinity of my South Carolina home, husband, three dogs and four cats. A friend at last advised me to consider osteopathic medicine. As I began my preliminary research of this special approach to medicine, I instantaneously identified with the holistic nature osteopathic medicine embraces. I also identified with the city of Atlanta, which I was delighted to see pop up on my computer screen. I followed a link to GA-PCOM—and here I am.

But why, you might ask, would I turn my life upside down? Why live apart from my established existence? For me, it is a simple answer: I prayed.

Nine years ago, I was 14 years into a career as a vocational high school teacher. My charge was to teach industrial sewing. But over the years, structural changes in the textile industry began to impact the job market. Now,

all American textile jobs are on the decline, and most have been replaced with overseas labor. Once I was no longer able to help secure work for my students, I surmised that there wasn't a need for me to train them. I prayed for guidance as I sought a new career path.

**“But why, you might ask, would I turn my life upside down? Why live apart from my established existence? For me, it is a simple answer: I prayed.”**

Education had been my life. I loved my students and I wanted the best for them. Mine was always a desire to teach my students as “whole people”—to sharpen their minds, bodies and spirits. With the osteopathic philosophy in mind, the idea came to me that I might be able to perform similar services for children, adults and families in rural South Carolina as a physician. I knew the path was a long shot, especially given my age, but I was assured it was the right thing to do. With my husband's unwavering

encouragement, I left my teaching position, enrolled in college science courses and prepared for and took the MCAT examination.

The same determination that brought me to GA-PCOM is what keeps me going. There is so much to learn in such a short time that sometimes I just want to retreat home to my simple life in the country. I constantly miss my husband, whose employment requires he remain near our home. However, I love the challenges GA-PCOM's curriculum presents and the interactions and interpersonal connections I have developed with the campus's dedicated faculty and my fellow classmates. Every day is filled with wonder. Medicine inspires me; I am humbled to be a part of it.



Debra Bjork (DO '09)

*Readers: The staff of Digest welcomes your ideas for essays that would be of interest to the PCOM community. Please submit ideas in writing to Jennifer Schaffer Leone. E-mail [jenniferleo@pcom.edu](mailto:jenniferleo@pcom.edu); fax 215-871-6307; or mail Marketing and Communications, 4180 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131-1695.*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND SAVE THE DATES!

# PCOM ALUMNI *Weekend*

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## *Schedule of Events*

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2006**

Welcome Party at the Manayunk  
Brewery and Restaurant

Continuing Medical Education  
Seminars at the PCOM Campus

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2006**

Family Fun Barbecue and Campus  
Open House at the PCOM Campus

Reunion Receptions and Dinner Dance at  
the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue

Continuing Medical Education Seminars  
at the PCOM Campus

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2006**

Alumni Day at Adventure Aquarium

# SEE YOU *Soon!*



## PCOMEVENTS



*"Be kind in thought to the atoms of life."*

*- Andrew Taylor Still*

### **May 3-5**

*(Alumni Reception, May 3)*

POMA Annual Clinical Assembly  
*King of Prussia, PA*

### **May 3-6**

ACOS Annual Clinical Assembly  
*Rosen Center Hotel, Orlando, FL*

### **May 5**

Ten-Year Anniversary Celebration  
for PCOM Psychology Program  
*PCOM Campus, Philadelphia, PA*

### **May 27-June 1**

*(Alumni/Student Reception,  
May 28)*

AAPA Annual PA Conference  
*San Francisco, CA*

### **June 2-4**

Alumni Weekend 2006  
*PCOM Campus, Philadelphia, PA*

### **June 4**

DO Class of 2006 Commencement  
*Kimmel Center, Philadelphia, PA*

### **June 25**

Reading Phillies Baseball Game  
*First Energy Stadium, Reading, PA*



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